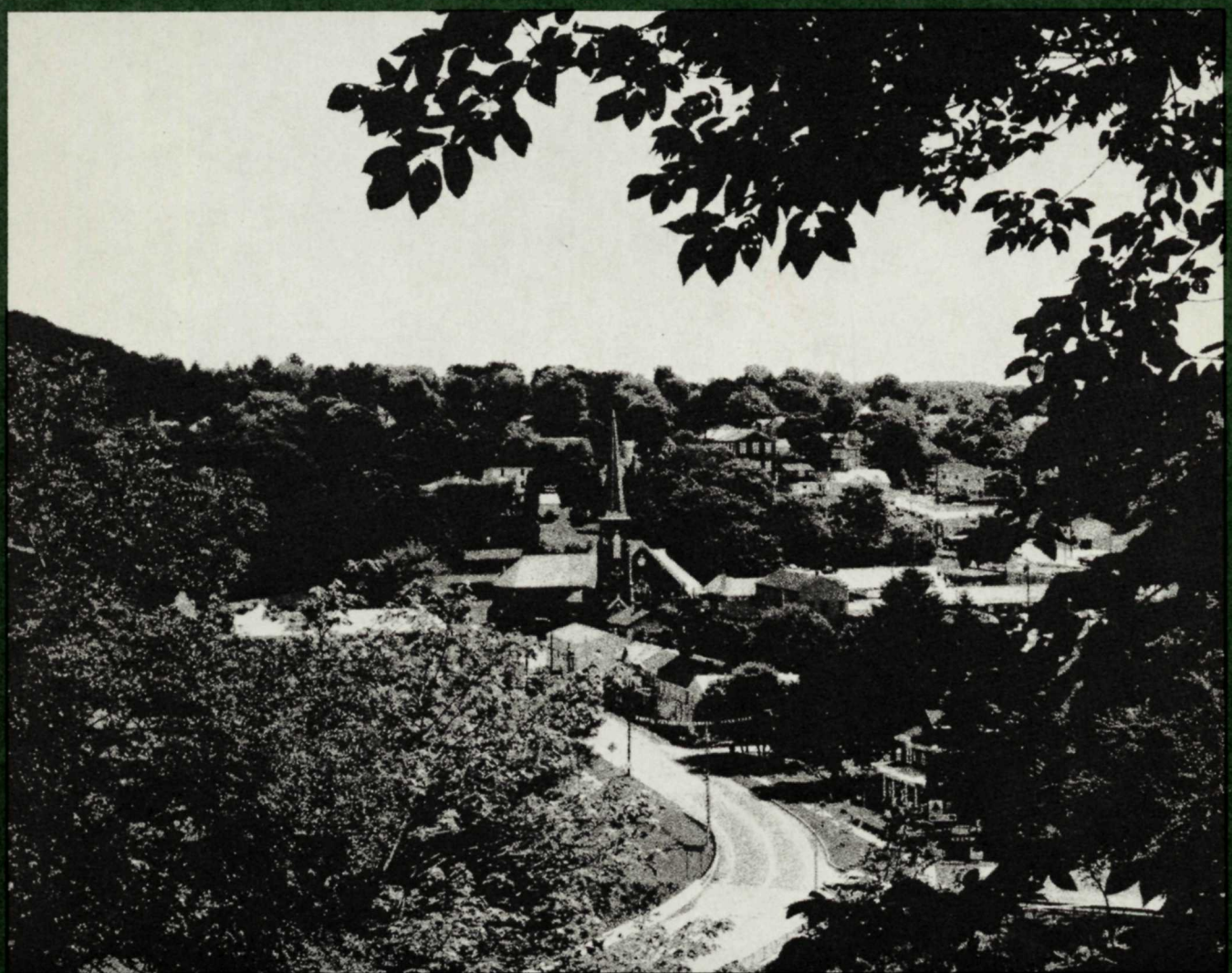
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TWO HISTORIC PENNSYLVANIA CANAL TOWNS:

ALEXANDRIA AND SALTSBURG



America's Industrial Heritage Project
National Park Service

Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns:

ALEXANDRIA and SALTSBURG

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Chapter 1:

INTRODUCTION

This documentation project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), both entities of the National Park Service, is part of a multi-year effort to record the architectural resources in a nine-county region of southwestern Pennsylvania related to the railroad, canal, and affiliated industrial development.

This assessment of the architectural and historical significance of two towns located along the route of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal during the nineteenth century was completed during summer 1988. Dozens of modest commercial centers were historically located along the 395-mile waterway that linked Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but few can boast tangible remains from their heyday. Saltsburg, on the Kiskiminetas River, and Alexandria, on the Juniata River, were selected for study according to several criteria: for geographic location on flanking sides of the Allegheny Divide, for containing a building stock composed of a significant number of intact period buildings that date from the mid- to late-nineteenth century, and for the existence of a group of standing structures specifically associated with the canal as well as the visibly extant canal bed itself. The individual buildings for which HABS reports were prepared were selected from previously conducted surveys of the municipalities based on construction date, architectural and historical merit, and retention of architectural integrity (ie., original form and exterior siding with minor additions). One structure threatened by demolition was measured, and all buildings were recorded using large-format photography.

Primary and secondary resources, as well as public records, were used to document these canal towns. Several nineteenth-century publications offer contemporary depictions of life, such as J. Simpson Africa's History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania, Arms and White's 1745-1880: History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, and the 1913 Indiana County, Pennsylvania by J.T. Stewart. These were augmented by many articles, periodicals and books published in recent years by local historical groups promoting an interest in canal heritage, such as Canal Currents, Indiana County Heritage, 1838-1988: Canal Days Sesquicentennial, and Hartslog Heritage. Publications devoted to chronicling the history of the canal itself are provided by Robert McCullough and Walter Leuba's The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal and Peter Wallner's doctoral thesis, "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System." Public documents provided information on historical township and borough tax assessment, deeds and probate activities. Additional information was gleaned from historic maps and atlases, and forms produced as part of the Pennsylvania Historical Resources Survey.

Recorded under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER, project leader was Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian. Dorothy Burlingame of the University of Vermont was project supervisor; Karen Genskow of Sangamon State University researched Alexandria; and Kristin Belz of the University of Virginia investigated Saltsburg. Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian, compiled and edited the final document. David Ames took all the

large-format photographs. Thanks also go to Nancy Shedd of the Huntingdon County Historical Society, and many individuals at Historic Saltsburg, including Gloria Berringer, Ann Palmer, and George Johnson.

This report is organized into three primary chapters: a general investigation of the region and historical events surrounding canal-town development in southwestern Pennsylvania; and individual overviews on Alexandria and Saltsburg, with respective appendices containing the HABS reports on forty-four buildings. Because the building reports contained in the appendices lack a general bibliography, sources consulted are found in the bibliography of the respective chapter; individual HABS building reports transmitted to the Library of Congress, however, contain a full list of sources consulted.

Chapter 2:

CANAL-TOWN DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

INTRODUCTION

Dozens of towns along the rivers between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia blossomed with the introduction of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal in the third decade of the nineteenth century. This first major east-west transportation route linked the East Coast and its waterways with the inland Great Lakes and Mississippi River, thus opening up Pennsylvania west of the formidable Allegheny Mountains. The singularly significant canal era lasted only about twenty years, until mid-century when the railroad was introduced as a direct competitor. Rail transportation quickly dominated shipping by water, and after the Pennsylvania Railroad Company acquired both entities, the canal facilities were gradually eliminated. The railway continued to sustain the economies of small towns, such as Alexandria and Saltsburg, that developed and were dependent upon the export of natural resources and some manufactured products. While the railroad literally obliterated its predecessor, and many of its own branch lines were phased out during the twentieth century, the localities of western and central Pennsylvania nonetheless owe their heritage to these all-important nineteenth-century engineering accomplishments.

This overview summarizes the history of the southwestern Pennsylvania region from colonial settlement to the development of increasingly sophisticated transportation systems, and industrialization of the Juniata and Conemaugh river valleys, while taking into account the ethnic, religious, and social fabric shared by the towns--including Saltsburg and Alexandria. This context is intended to clarify and elaborate on the architectural heritage of the area, with its strong Germanic-Scotch tradition, as it was absorbed into larger, national influences.

EARLY PENNSYLVANIA SETTLEMENT

Settlement of inland areas as far west as Pennsylvania occurred after East Coast and other land accessed by waterways was already populated. The reasons were simple: native, often hostile, Indians inhabited the territory; a limited number of men were available to establish settlement villages; and the topography itself was treacherous and difficult to traverse.

When whites began to venture into central and western Pennsylvania in the mid-eighteenth century, the primary mode of transportation was by small river craft or by foot along narrow Indian trails. The first settlers in the region took to the banks of the Susquehanna and Allegheny rivers. As whites interacted with Indians enroute westward, they widened their trails to accommodate pack animals, and these came to be known as bridle

paths.[1] Unlike settlers who arrived with the intention of creating a homestead, the earliest traders did not clear the land or build substantial dwellings; they stayed in a spot called a log or sleeping place. This may account for the story of John Hart who, according to legend, traded with western Pennsylvania Indians until the 1750s; the site where he is said to have fed and salted horses, "Hart's Log," became the founding tract of Alexandria. Little physical evidence remains from this era, however: "There were no inns on the road in those days, nor a habitation west of the mountains, save perhaps, a hut or two at Fort Ligonier."[2]

Squabbles over the interior regions of the colonized New World were initially an international contest. During the French and Indian War, the French and British troops utilized their Indian allies for combat, and western Pennsylvania was enveloped in the scrimmage. Both forces sought settlement rights to land west of the Ohio River, and the subsequent control over this waterway for purposes of trade, communication, and settlement. France controlled land in Canada and Louisiana, between which the Ohio River was a critical link. The British, who owned land east of the Ohio River, were unwilling to risk separation from what promised to be a profitable commercial endeavor. Settlers caught in the fray often found it prudent to move eastward to avoid the battles over control of the forts along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers until after the war. The minority of white settlers who remained behind simply attempted to protect their homes from attack.

In 1775, General Braddock led militia across Pennsylvania to capture the French Fort Duquesne. His defeat on July 9, 1775, exposed the western territories to further attack. The French retained control until 1758, despite a handful of British victories. Montreal, Canada, fell in September 1760, and the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, officially ended the war, and the French ceded their North American territories to the British. Intercontinental peace may have been technically restored, but the colonists who returned to the frontier found still-hostile Indians and little remains of their crude settlements.

The Proclamation of 1763 had established the Allegheny Mountains as the western boundary of British colonial land holdings. Complaints by various tribes in the ensuing years concerned the growing number of white squatters. In response, Governor Penn in 1766 forbade settlement west of the treaty line; the penalty for trespassing was strict, but not harsh enough to discourage the practice.[3]

In fall 1768, the British and the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy signed the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, in which the latter ceded the land south of the Ohio River and east of the Alleghenies as far as Fort Pitt. Although doubt existed concerning the Iroquois's right to sell land occupied by the Shawnee, Delaware, and other tribes, settlers rushed westward to

[1] George Swetman, Pennsylvania Transportation, Pennsylvania Historical Studies No. 7 (Gettysburg: Pennsylvania Historical A ssociation, 1968), 6.

[2] William H. Egle, An Illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg: Dewitt C. Goodrich and Co., 1875), 793.

[3] Clarence D. Stephenson, Indiana County 175th Anniversary History (Indiana, Pa.: A.G. Halldin Publishing Co., 1978), 64; hereafter cited as 175th.

speculate and to survey new land.[4] Over the next decade, the Revolutionary War again halted most new settlement efforts, with many families forced back to more secure locales or residing within the walls of nearby forts.[5] Even after the Second Treaty of Fort Stanwix was signed in 1787 and the remaining land within the boundaries of the state was acquired, Indian uprisings continued, and settlers sought refuge in blockhouses, fortifications constructed of stacked planks or logs.[6]

Between 1770 and 1794, Indian uprisings and turmoil associated with the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War contributed to the sluggish influx of settlers. Further disputes between Indians and whites were diminished by the Treaty of 1795.[7] Living conditions were crude and difficult, thus few buildings erected prior to the early decades of the nineteenth century remain intact.

ARCHITECTURAL TRADITION

The ethnic makeup of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century immigrants to central and southwest Pennsylvania was largely homogeneous--German, Scotch and Irish. The similarity of their native homelands to Pennsylvania's rugged but fertile geography meant that their traditional types of houses and farm structures translated well using the materials at hand in their new home. Pennsylvania has long been credited with having a strong and distinct history of vernacular architecture, even after it began to mingle with nationally popular American styles such as Greek Revival, Federal, and Georgian. Field stone and red brick are common building materials--sometimes covered with stucco or painted--used for the typically two-story dwellings and commercial buildings. It would seem the construction skills introduced to Alexandria and Saltsburg by canal engineers and masons would have resulted in more stone buildings than history substantiates; exant examples are found in Saltsburg's William McIlwaine House (ca. 1827-40s) and the 105 Point Street House (ca. 1830), and Alexandria's John Cresswell House (ca. 1816).

The downtown residential and commercial buildings erected from the early-nineteenth century generally reflect similar plans, proportions, and decorative features. Arranged on an L-shaped or rectangular plan with the ridge line parallel to the street, windows and doors are most often symmetrically arranged. In larger dwellings these were four to six bays across, on a center-hall plan; in an abbreviated form this becomes a two-thirds Georgian, or three-bay side-hall plan; both are commonly double pile, or two rooms deep. Chimneys are found on the interior of one or both gable ends.[8] It is common to find a centered or full one-story

[4] Stephenson, 175th, 114.

[5] Egle, 782.

[6] Stephenson, 175th, 114-15.

[7] C.T. Arms and Edward White, 1745-1880 History of Indiana County, Penn'a (Newark, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1880), 380.

[8] Henry Glassie, "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building," Winterthur Portfolio 7 (1972), 38.

porch on the primary facade, as well as on the interior rear side of the one- or two-story ell, which often served as the kitchen or a similar service function. In Pennsylvania a "double house" was a bilaterally symmetrical building occupied by two families, although these are less common than traditional side-passage or center-passage plans. Typically, all these buildings were erected close together like rowhouses, and similarly pressed forward on the site as close as possible to the street, despite the availability of adequate land to do otherwise.

As town planning developed, so did a pattern of characteristics common to southwestern Pennsylvania. Unlike other regions of the country, different types of buildings -- dwellings, stores, churches, civic structures--are jumbled together in a townscape without any schematic significance or hierarchy. One exception is the "diamond," an open space formed in the void of a right-angle intersection of streets that incorporates the corners of adjacent blocks. Alexandria contains a diamond that is located away from the downtown and canal route, which is unusual, since the diamond was intended to develop into a central downtown area. Open markets and other community events were hosted here, as well as providing a suitable open space for parking wagons and carts. Alleys also play an important role in the regional pattern of town planning. These are unusually formal, often named, and are reminiscent of a mews or close, and they allow each residence a generous rear egress. After 1830 when the national and international influences that arrived via the canal, railroad, and general midwestern development inundated small towns such as Alexandria and Saltsburg, these strictly Pennsylvanian architectural traits are lost to a more anonymous style of building.[9]

TRANSPORTATION

River Routes

As peace was gradually established in Pennsylvania, settlement resumed with a vigor. A steady stream of hopeful immigrants led the General Assembly in 1771 to designate as "public highways" the Juniata, Kiskiminetas, and the west branch of the Susquehanna rivers; the Conemaugh River was added to the list in 1787. In 1791 an act was passed that would penalize anyone caught obstructing these waterways, as well as authorizing the removal of rocks and other natural materials that obstructed the river's flow and endangered proper navigation.[10] In 1794 the General Assembly provided the financing to make these improvements.

Traversing the rivers was accomplished by ferry, ford, or bridge, the last so prevalent in Pennsylvania it is described as the "state of bridges."[11] A ferry serviced Saltsburg during the second decade of the nineteenth century, and another was operated after the canal opened. Concurrent to the canal era there existed a ford in the Juniata River at Alexandria that led into Hartslog Street; this was usurped by a covered bridge built across the river in 1845 that

[9] Wilbur Zelinsky, "The Pennsylvania Town: An Overdue Geographical Account," The Geographical Review (April 1977), 133, 136, 144.

[10] J. Simpson Africa, History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), 30-31.

[11] Fuller D. Wayland, A History of Pennsylvania (NY: Prentice-Hall, 1935), 672.

led into Bridge Street. A similar bridge crossed the Kiskiminetas River at Saltsburg in 1842-43. Prior to the semblance of settlement introduced by the canal, there were few such examples of these travel amenities.

Roads

The existing Indian trails were adequate for initial settlement, but the early pioneers soon discovered that improved roads were needed to accommodate the onslaught of heavy traffic--wagons and carriages. Maintenance of the widened bridle paths, with little or no improvement made to the surface, fell to adjacent property owners. But the effort expended toward the primary tasks of clearing land, planting crops, and erecting basic dwellings left little time for local residents to spend fixing up the road. The Lancaster Pike, financed at the petition of Pennsylvania residents, is an exception that marks the beginning of the trend toward state- and privately developed roads. Funded in 1733 by the government, the pike was completed by 1741.[12]

The Revolutionary War necessitated a hiatus in road construction just when the central and western Pennsylvania regions needed these facilities most, but when the conflict was over, the problem of inadequate thoroughfares was quickly addressed.[13] In 1785 the General Assembly alloted £2,000 to finance the clearing of brush and boulders from highways between Cumberland County and Pittsburgh, which ignited an influx of German, Scotch, and Irish who would become the first permanent settlers in this region.[14] In 1787 President George Washington appointed a commissioner to survey a road from the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River over the Allegheny Mountains to the navigable waters of the Conemaugh River that very nearly followed the present-day U.S. Route 22. Until the advent of turnpikes, this was the primary east-west thoroughfare, extended in 1791 with the addition of a ferry route between the Juniata Valley and the Ohio River.[15]

Turnpikes

The turnpike, a more strictly developed road along which tolls are collected to defray the costs of construction and maintenance, originated in England where a bar or pike blocked the road until the toll was paid.[16] Revenue from a traveller's dining, lodging, and passenger services became vital revenue to commercial establishments along the turnpikes. Stagehouses or inns provided bed and board for travellers, as well as a change of horses.[17] Roadhouses accommodated wagons and drovers, while providing large yards to contain their animals. Neither approached luxurious lodgings, composed of only a kitchen, dining room, and a large saloon area. All guests slept on the floor using their own bedding; many such inns housed

[12] Swetman, 7.

[13] Africa, 29.

[14] Swetman, 11.

[15] Swetman, 13; Africa, 30; Stewart, 45.

[16] Swetman, 15.

[17] J.T. Stewart, Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1913), 46.

the proprietor and his family, as well.[18]

On February 24, 1806, Pennsylvania began accepting subscriptions for stock to finance construction of a turnpike between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh to pass through Bedford. The next year a commission was appointed to sell stock for another road to go from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh by way of Huntingdon and Lewistown. In 1810 the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike Company was incorporated and authorized to construct a turnpike of the same name; by 1820-21 the road was completed over the seventy-seven miles between Huntingdon and Blairsville, at a cost of $200,000. A mile marker belonging to the route is extant in Alexandria where the pike became part of Main Street. Due to the scarcity of settlement prior to this period, growth of foundling towns and industries occurred primarily along these wilderness arteries.[19]

Turnpikes proved less than ideal constructions, however, as they were susceptible to decay from weathering, age, poor construction, and weighty loads. Turnpike companies found that in general the maintenance costs exceeded the profits from tolls, and many of these roads were allowed to fall into a state of neglect.

Canals

The boom in American canal construction (Figure 2.1) began in the northeast and south--New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Carolinas--about 1800, as these areas sought transportation avenues into the territories of Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana; U.S. ownership then extended as far west as the Mississippi River. The Erie Canal was the first large-scale, economically successful waterway in this country, though it was preceded by numerous local canals built much earlier.[20] As early as 1762 several merchants petitioned for a survey of the west branch of the Susquehanna River, hopeful of connecting it with the Ohio River as a supplemental route to the Forbes Road, which was nothing more than a bridle path. In 1771 the American Philosophical Society explored the Schuylkill and Susquehanna river valleys in a plan to connect these two rivers via the Swatara and Lebanon valleys.

Twenty years later, the legislature approved the incorporation of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Navigation Company for "opening a canal and lock navigation" between the Schuylkill and the Susquehanna. Shortly thereafter another group, the Delaware and Schuylkill Navigation Company, was established to build a waterway between the Delaware River at Philadelphia to Norristown on the Schuylkill River. Both experienced financial difficulties, however, and they merged in 1811 into the Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania, which was authorized to build canals as needed across Pennsylvania. By 1828 the seventy-eight-mile canal (with ninety-three locks) between Reading on the Schuylkill, and Portsmouth (now Middletown) on the Susquehanna, was complete. During the early years of the nineteenth century a number of small, private canals continued to be built to facilitate

[18] Stewart, 46.

[19] Africa, 31-33.

[20] William Shank, The Amazing Pennsylvania Canals (York: American Canal & Transportation Center, 1973), 5.



Figure 2.1 Canals of the Eastern United States, from Carolyn E. MacGill's History of Transportation in the United States Before 1860 (Peter Smith, 1948).

local travel, but none approached the scope of a major east-west transportation route.[21]

Canal advocates in Pennsylvania stressed the inadequacies of rivers, turnpikes, and public roads during spring flooding and wintertime when ice posed a threat. Canal travel could extend the shipping season to nine months, from March to November, as well as stimulate the market for mineral resources found along the corridor. European conflicts also magnified America's need to develop for itself domestic sources of raw materials and manufactured goods, and at the same time provide adequate means for the large volume of immigrants hopeful of settling the interior territory.

Westward migration was encouraged by a growing interest in the vast natural resources beyond the Allegheny Mountains, which offered potential competition with Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes ports. Philadelphia was historically the No. 1 seaport in young America, followed by Baltimore and New York. The nation was fascinated by European canal systems as a viable means of shipping of raw materials to manufacturing centers, but not enough to support lobbying efforts such as that of David Reid, who introduced of the notion of a canal to the Pennsylvania legislature in 1813-14.[22] The commonwealth could not be wooed into financing such a costly and long-term project until the results of the model canal underway in New York could be assessed.

The Erie Canal, connecting the Hudson River at Albany with Buffalo on Lake Erie was both precedent-setting and highly successful. Begun on July 4, 1817, and completed on November 4, 1825, the canal drew national attention as the first link between the Eastern Seaboard and interior Great Lakes, although it did not have any specific impact on the western portion of Pennsylvania. As inland traffic could now opt to go through New York State, overland routes to trading centers such as Philadelphia and Baltimore were affected and related profits dropped off.

Pennsylvania's interest was piqued by the Erie's accomplishments, and the Philadelphia-based Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Internal Improvements sent engineer William Strickland and his assistant, Samuel Honeywell Kneass, to study and record canals in Britain, Ireland, and Wales. In 1824 the General Assembly named a canal commission to investigate potential routes between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, with specific attention paid to the Juniata and Conemaugh river valleys: its goal was to find a means of accessing the fertile territory beyond the mountains and availing it to settlers.[23] The one negative aspect of this route was a proposed four and one-half mile tunnel through the Allegheny Mountains with a canal trough elevated so high that a reliable water source was at risk; the task was beyond contemporary engineering technology.[24] But the promise of prosperity sure to be generated by

[21] Robert McCullough and Walter Leuba, The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (York: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973), 10-11.

[22] Shank, 11; Stephenson, 175th, 316.

[23] McCullough, 17-18.

[24] McCullough, 25.

a state-owned canal enticed local residents who insisted that this and alternative courses (seven in all) be re-examined.

PENNSYLVANIA MAIN LINE CANAL

The Erie Canal's rosy revenues, coupled with the comparable climatic and geographic characteristics of New York and Pennsylvania, were arguments touted by canal proponents. And Pennsylvania's recognized agricultural produce and extractive industries--salt, iron, and coal resources, in particular--were judged competitive with those of New York. Railroad advocates, on the other hand, insisted that Pennsylvania's mountainous terrain was not conducive to a canal and lock system, citing the efficiency of the fledgling rail transportation. (During the 1820s there were no railroad systems in the United States, although England--which led the world in developing rail transportation--could boast several facilities.) While impressive horsepower and tonnage figures ranked rail above canal transportation, Pennsylvanians at first balked at such an untried avenue, although two rail components were eventually incorporated into the main line system: the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad and the Portage Railroad.

The pressure to compete intensified, and the state hastily chose to pursue canal construction using borrowed funds, without even first determining how to breach the Allegheny Mountains. On February 25, 1826, the governor authorized the creation of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, to connect Philadelphia and Pittsburgh via the Juniata and Conemaugh rivers; the first spadeful of dirt was turned in Harrisburg on July 4 of that year, with digging to commence at each end.[25]

It was not until 1828, however, that the Main Line was completely planned and organized into five divisions (Figure 2.2): three canal and two rail. The easternmost section of the main line comprised the Columbia Railroad, stretching eighty-three miles from Philadelphia to Columbia, located along the Susquehanna River. It connected with the Eastern Division, a forty-three-mile canal route between Columbia and Clark's Ferry. Linked by an aquaduct, the canal continued as the Juniata Division, stretching 127 miles between Duncan's Island and Hollidaysburg along the Juniata River. The Allegheny Portage Railroad carried passengers and boats the next thirty-seven miles over the Allegheny Mountains between Hollidaysburg and Johnstown. Traveling again by water, the 105-mile Western Division concluded the Main Line, making the connection between Johnstown and Pittsburgh along the Conemaugh, Kiskiminetas, and Allegheny rivers. The system totalled 395 miles end to end.

The Eastern Division of the Main Line Canal was originally designed to intersect with the privately owned Union Canal at Middletown on the Susquehanna River; this was extended to Columbia, however, after 1828 when a rail link between Columbia to Philadelphia was

[25] Theodore Klein, The Canals of Pennsylvania and the System of Internal Improvements (Harrisburg: William Stanley Ray, 1901), 9.

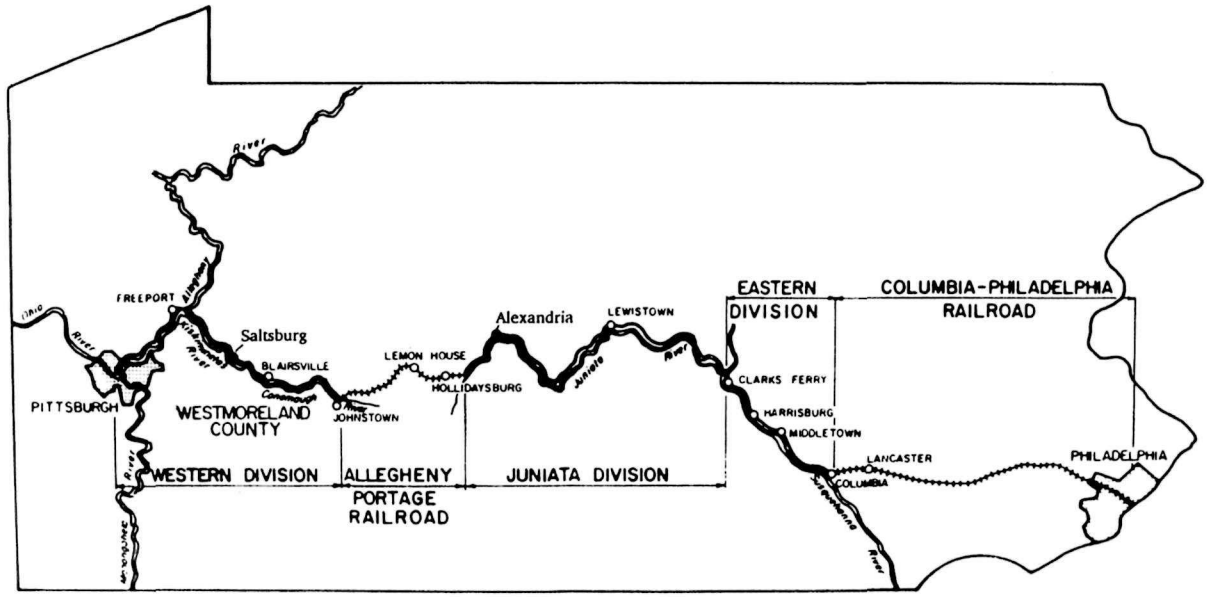


Figure 2.2. Map of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (Dennis Semsick and George B. Johnson, Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal, 1984).

considered.[26] Strickland and Kneass served as the engineers of its two dams, twenty-three locks and eight aqueducts.[27]

The Western Division, winding eastbound through the Conemaugh River Valley, proved more controversial than its eastern counterpart, and work commenced in 1826 before the Pittsburgh terminus was precisely settled upon. A year later the canal was extended to Blairsville; and in 1828, to Johnstown.[28] All but the last five miles at the Pittsburgh terminus commenced immediately, because although the canal was supposed to fall within that city's limits, the engineers thought a better route might take it to the nearby village of Allegheny. Pittsburghers rightfully protested, and in a compromise move the commission extended the canal to the shore opposite the city and crossed over; and a branch canal continued another mile or so to the Borough of Allegheny. Nathan Roberts, George T. Olmstead, Alonzo Livermore, and later Moncure Robinson served as engineers on this division, which included ten dams, sixteen aqueducts, sixty-four locks, two tunnels, and sixty-four culverts.[29]

[26] Swetman, 57.

[27] Archer Hulbert, The Great American Canals I, vol. 13 (Cleveland, 1902-05), Historic Highways of America; reprint (NY: AMS Press, 1971, 211-215.

[28] McCullough, 49, 51.

[29] Clarence D. Stephenson, Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties (Marion Center: Author, 1961), 2; McCullough, 53.

In 1827 the Juniata Division became the last of the three canal segments authorized, initially to connect Clark's Ferry and Lewistown via the Juniata River Valley; and later extended to Huntingdon, Frankstown, and still further to Hollidaysburg.[30] It proved the most difficult to develop because the channel followed valleys and bisected mountains, and the sharp Hollidaysburg elevation demanded construction of a reservoir. As a result, this section caused the highest incidence of damage to the private property of adjacent landowners and it cost the most to build. Dewitt Clinton Jr., who had worked on the Erie Canal, was one engineer on this division, whose components included sixteen dams, eighty-eight locks and twenty-five aqueducts.[31]

Allegheny Portage Railroad

Construction on the Allegheny Portage Railroad, the first "artificial means of communication" between the East and the Mississippi Basin, did not commence until March 1831, a few years after the canal proper was in operation.[32] The idea for a tunnel through the Alleghenies had been quickly discarded in favor of a novel counter-weighted rail route over the mountains. The Allegheny Portage Railroad, largely the project of engineers Moncure Robinson and Sylvester Welch, consisted of a series of inclined planes connected with grades.[33] The path was cleared of timber and the terrain graded to produce a uniform slope for each of the ten inclines and levels in between. Records of 1875 indicate the distances of each incline[34]:

Incline	**Length** (feet)	**Rise** (feet)
1 (Johnstown)	1,607	150
2	1,760	132
3	1,480	130
4	2,195	187
5	2,628	201
Summit	-	-
6	2,713	266
7	2,655	260
8	3,116	307
9	2,720	189
10 (Hollidaysburg)	2,295	180

A stationary engine located at the head of each incline assisted with the ascent and descent of cars. Hemp rope used initially was replaced in 1844 with less expensive wire rope designed by Brooklyn Bridge builder and engineer John Roebling. The cable was used

[30] McCullough, 41.

[31] McCullough, 44-45.

[32] Hulbert, 195-96.

[33] McCullough, 62.

[34] H.W. Schotter, The Growth and Development of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company (Philadelphia: Allen, Line and Scott, 1927), 18.

experimentally on No. 10, and by 1849 was in place on all of the inclines.[35] In October 1834 the Lackawanna-based keelboat "Hit or Miss" became the first vessel to cross the Alleghenies. The cars were first hauled across the grades by horses, and later by wood-burning steam locomotives.[36] The total cost of this segment, $8.4 million, represents the bulk of the cost of the entire main line, and it was the first unit to be closed.[37]

As a result, the towns of Hollidaysburg and Johnstown, on the east and west termini of the Portage Railroad, respectively, became important shipping centers. "The opening of the canal to Hollidaysburg marked the beginning of the rapid and substantial growth enjoyed by that town for two decades," noted one contemporary.[38] The economic and physical growth they experienced was evident in new warehouses and industrial structures, as well as housing for locally based managers and laborers, and inns and saloons that served the migrating population. Both towns became economic, political, and social centers thanks to their location along the canal.

Columbia-Philadelphia Railroad

The Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad was conceived to replace the privately owned Union and Schuylkill Canal from Columbia to Philadelphia. Unlike the Allegheny Portage Railroad, the Columbia Railroad had only two inclined planes. The Belmont Plane, 2,805 feet long and 187 feet high; and the second plane, which descended into the basin at Columbia, 1,800 feet long and 90 feet high.[39] Rail travel was considered hazardous because of numerous curves, inadequate viaducts, and frequent accidents. Coupled with this division's inability to support a large quantity of traffic, a backlog was created and competing routes were developed that bypassed the Columbia-Philadelphia line.[40]

With its completion on April 15, 1834, the canal was credited with much of the growth that occurred along this corridor between 1825 and 1855.[41] Small settlements became established towns and small-scale industries blossomed into economically feasible ventures. The canal was a great improvement over transportation by pack mule and wagon.

But while individual towns prospered, the state was facing an escalating debt. In 1834, concurrent with advancements in railroad technology, the canal was already a financial disappointment. At a cost to-date of $22 million, the state owned 601 miles of canal and 119

[35] Harry A. Jacobs, The Juniata Canal and Old Portage Railroad (Hollidaysburg: Blair County Historical Society, 1941), 6.

[36] Jacobs, 4.

[37] Hulbert, 211.

[38] Africa, 36.

[39] McCullough, 69.

[40] McCullough, 144-45.

[41] Hulbert, 215; McCullough, 72.

miles of rail line. The burden of the former was outpacing even the growing recognition of railroad superiority. Remarked Governor Ritner in his final address:

> I once thought that no combination of circumstances would cause me to even hesitate in advocating the speediest means that could be devised for the completion of our noble system of improvement [the Main Line Canal]; but the experience of the past two years has, I confess, shaken my confidence in the attainment of this desirable end, within any reasonable period.[42]

Canal Construction and Technology

The canal-construction process was beset immediately with problems. Although many of the engineers were qualified by previous experience building the Erie Canal, the contractors who bid on sections of the main line were novices, and the lowest bidder received the contract. Unforeseen expenses often resulted in the contractor abandoning the project; the canal commissioners were then forced to relet the contract for a higher price, often to the same individual. In addition there were repeated incidents of poor workmanship and labor woes; in the semi-wilderness setting, diseases such as malaria and typhoid, frequently called "canal fever," plagued the low ground and river valleys where the canal was being built, and cholera outbreaks were recorded in 1832 and 1849.[43]

The frustration that resulted from generally poor management and construction was intensified by unskilled and uneducated laborers who were difficult to control. The large gangs who worked on the canal wreaked repeated havoc at local towns and farms in the form of drunkenness, looting, and brawling. They were predominantly Irish immigrants who were "largely illiterate, Roman Catholic, and full of the brogue," from whom their predecessors, the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian settlers, quickly differentiated themselves. Many had little to lose, having fled the potato famine in Ireland, and were willing to accept the poor working conditions, limited diet, and low wages. During a twelve-hour workday, each man was expected to dig the equivalent of a yard of canal, payment for which was 75 to 87 cents.[44]

The canal was built level so the water did not drain from the channel. Boats were easily pulled along the shallow cavity by a mule walking slightly ahead, along the adjacent towpath. When the gradient became too great, a lock system was constructed similar to a series of steps. The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal had many components: 175 locks, twenty-eight dams, and forty-nine aqueducts, as well as numerous slackwater pools, waste weirs, bridges, reservoirs, feeder canals, weigh locks, tunnels, basins and, in Johnstown, the ingenious Portage Railroad with its accompanying viaducts and inclined planes.[45]

[42] McCullough, 31-32.

[43] Peter A. Wallner, "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System, 1825-1857," Ph.D diss., Pennsylvania State University, 1973; 78.

[44] McCullough, 51-54.

[45] Hulbert, 211.

The majority of locks were constructed of water-tight layers of timber, while those of the Western Division more substantial cut and rubble-stone masonry. The standard lock on the Juniata River measured approximately 15 feet by 90 feet, two feet narrower than elsewhere in the Eastern Division; and each had a 4 feet by 2 feet spillway, or flume, along the upward slope with shut-off gates to regulate the water flow.[46] The canal and its traffic were frequently victimized by inclement weather: one June day in 1838, for example, severe rainfall caused the Juniata River to wash away nearly every lock, aqueduct, and dam between Huntingdon and Hollidaysburg; and repairs were not complete, nor shipping resumed, until the end of that season.[47]

Each lock was basically a chamber that could be closed with watertight gates on both upstream and downstream sides. If a boat was moving upstream, those gates were closed and the lower ones opened, allowing the water level to drop until it equalled that of the boat. The vessel would then be towed into the lock and the lower gates would be shut behind it. The upper gates would be opened and the water allowed to enter until the boat reached the higher level; the gates would then be opened and the vessel towed into the canal.

Individual locks were operated by a lockkeeper who was housed, rent-free in a nearby lockhouse. These dwellings were designed on a variety of simple plans, typically built on a lot owned by the state. The lockkeeper was an important source of information, since he was in contact with travellers from all parts of the country and Europe.[48] At peak season boats passed through every fifteen to twenty minutes, for a total of more than 3,600 westbound crafts a year. Although many of the locks themselves have been destroyed during intervening years, extant lockhouses such as the one in Alexandria face the old canal route. Rules for navigating the canal were established by the Board of Canal Commissioners. Packet-boat speed limits were set at four miles per hour, with lighter crafts permitted to go somewhat faster, with passenger boats having the right of way; violation of these regulations resulted in fines.[49] A canal-boat trip between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh required less than a week, although delays related to washouts, repairs, and queues to get into the lock were common.

A weighlock measured the weight of the boat loaded with cargo; tolls were calculated based on the number of tons transported per mile. When the water was drained from the chamber, the boat came to rest atop a set of scales. The weight of the empty vessel was first calculated and a nail was driven into the hull at water level, and again after every two tons were added. When the total weight was established, the weighlock was refilled, the gates opened, and the boat moved on.[50] Initially, for instance, agricultural products were assessed at

[46] McCullough, 43.

[47] McCullough, 139.

[48] McCullough, 120.

[49] McCullough, 95.

[50] McCullough, 116.

2 cents a ton-mile, coal and iron ore at 1 cent per ton-mile.

Along the way, passengers could sit on top of the boat and take in the fresh air and passing scenery visible over the berm walls. At the cry "low bridge," everyone quickly lay down on the roof to avoid injury, as the boat passed beneath the bridge with inches to spare.

Aqueducts carried the canal over periodic chasms and rivers. An aqueduct resembled a bridge, but rather than a roadway, the structure supported a water-filled trough. Sometimes a dam was built across a river, creating a slackwater pool in which the current was calm enough to cross in a canal boat. Gates, or waste weirs, controlled the water level during spring freshets to protect the canal from washing out. Sometimes the absence of sufficient water created the need for a dam and reservoir to conserve water for use during dry summer months. Feeder canals often provided an additional supply of water.

Around the perimeter of basins, large bodies of water adjacent to the canal where boats were loaded and unloaded, warehouses and stores erupted into the town's busiest commercial center.[51]

The state constructed its own mill in Johnstown to produce hydraulic cement used in constructing the canal's underwater infrastructure. If the canal was located in a region of porous rock, a multi-layer lining of clay was needed to provide a seal. Over the shipping season, holes were invariably made in this "puddling" by animals or careless boatmen using illegal, metal-tipped bargepoles. These holes were quickly repaired to prevent serious leaks.

As a protective measure for the cargo, sectionally built canal boats had been suggested in 1826 by Canvass White, though they were not implemented until 1834 as developed by John Dougherty of the Reliance Transportation Line. The design--intended to facilitate passage on the Portage Railroad--prevented goods from being damaged by excessive handling, and if a leak occurred, the entire cargo would not be lost.[52] Sectionalization also reduced the available cargo space in each vessel, however.[53] Dougherty, an opportunist, then sold his plans for the three-section boat to Peter Shoenberger, and immediately designed and marketed a four-section craft.[54]

"All roads led to the canal," was the popular catchphrase during the peak shipping years, from 1829-54.[55] In 1847 historian I.D. Rupp agreed, "These public works were finished about twelve years ago, and since their completion, have completely changed the mode of

[51] Henry Wilson Storey, History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1907), 336.

[52] McCullough, 100; Shank, 35-36.

[53] Stephenson, Pennsylvania Canals, 16.

[54] Storey, 341.

[55] Stephenson, Pennsylvania Canals, 29.

carrying the surplus produce of the country and other articles of commerce."[56]

The Pennsylvania Main Line never achieved the success of the Erie Canal, however. Construction cost slightly more than $10 million, vastly exceeding original estimates. The state could afford only to make the most essential repairs and pay the salaries of its many employees: contractors, construction workers, lockkeepers, canal inspectors, and engineers. By 1843 when public debt for the state-run project reached $40 million, the legislature voted to sell the Main Line for $20 million, stipulating that the buyer continue to operate the system.[57]

In contrast, the New York canal was wildly successful: it generated sufficient toll income to facilitate upgrading almost immediately, and its less-formidable topography required only eighty-two locks along 363 miles. The Pennsylvania Main Line's rugged course necessitated 167 locks over 276 miles.[58] Also, initial plans had been incomplete, even as construction got under way, and the project was poorly timed. Rapid development made in locomotive technology between 1835-45 rendered the Allegheny Portage Railroad, the single-most expensive portion, obsolete before it was completed because of the complexity of the mechanism and its inability to keep up with the heavy volume of traffic that presented itself within a few years.[59]

The financial embarrassment was not lost on the state: "The present deranged condition of State finances, and the utter prostration of the credit of the commonwealth have now put a stop to the public works. The time has come for serious consideration upon the means of extricating Pennsylvania from her present embarrassed condition."[60]

Although the state lost money on the Main Line Canal, the citizens of western Pennsylvania profited considerably by it. The canal was more efficient and reliable than existing methods of transportation in the 1820s-30s: overland roads and river traffic. Using the crude bridlepaths, it took a traveller about twenty-five days to go from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, a distance reduced to twelve to fifteen days by turnpike; but by canal or rail, the voyage took only a few days.[61] The Pennsylvania Main Line also competed with New York as a major east-west route, successfully introducing immigrants and new settlement to western areas of the state. The canal opened the market for Pennsylvania's vast mineral resources, along the way supporting travel-related businesses such as inns, taverns, canal-boat builders, and operators of passenger and freight lines. In sum:

> The building of the Pennsylvania Canal is generally looked upon as an unfortunate episode in the history of Pennsylvania, and while,

[56] I.D. Rupp, History and Topography of Northumberland, Huntingdon. . .Counties (Lancaster: G. Hills, 1847), 203.

[57] McCullough, 34.

[58] McCullough, 148.

[59] McCullough, 143, 150.

[60] Source unknown.

[61] Charles Trego, A Geography of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Edward Biddle, 1843), 151.

considered as an investment, it was undoubtedly a losing one, it still had the effect of opening the country and of attracting to the western part of the state a sturdy population, most of whom otherwise might have gone West by the more favored route of the Erie Canal.[62]

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

As Pennsylvania was completing the Main Line Canal, private individuals began to develop minor railroad routes. The first were the Mauch Chunk Railroad in 1827, and the Carbondale and Honesdale Railroad--both designed to carry raw materials to nearby canals. By 1833 the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad published freight statistics showing Main Line tonnage shipped on their route exceeded that of the Erie Canal.[63] Because the Main Line canal remained accessible to a greater area, however, it dominated freight and passenger service.

People soon realized the railroad was no longer a mere rival to the state's canal, it had become the only viable mode of transportation for the future.[64] The Pennsylvania Railroad applied for a charter in 1846 to construct a rail line from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, which clearly threatened the already-struggling canal. The company quickly began to lay rails from Harrisburg to Hollidaysburg, utilizing the Columbia and Portage Railroads of the Main Line Canal. The Pennsylvania system followed the most practical geographic route--an area that very nearly paralleled the canal. Speculation, construction, and growth occurred there in anticipation of the railroad, not unlike the years just prior to the canal.

Between 1849 and 1851, the Pennsylvania Railroad laid connections between Harrisburg and Johnstown, and began another route over the mountains to bolster its system, including Horseshoe Curve, west of Altoona.[65] Because of a 2,200-foot difference in elevation, this section of track was designed in a U-shape, which necessitated a 1.8 percent grade[66]. The New Portage Railroad, or the Mountain Division opened in 1855 although not quite finished; henceforth the original Portage Railroad was no longer used.[67] That same year the canal commission slashed the price of the Main Line canal to $10 million, while retaining the stipulation that the buyer:

Shall . . . keep in good repair and operating condition, the entire line of said railroad and canals, extending from Philadelphia to

[62] U.S. Senator George T. Oliver, in an address before the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society (March 18, 1916), cited in McCullough, 153.

[63] Wayland, 686.

[64] Schotter, 28.

[65] Schotter, 26.

[66] Edwin P. Alexander, The Pennsylvania Railroad: A Pictorial History (NY: Bonanza Books, 1967), 47.

[67] McCullough, 157.

> Pittsburg (sic), with the necessary toll houses, water stations, locks, buildings and other appurtenances, and that said railroads and canals shall be, and forever remain, a public highway.[68]

Facing economic and political pressure, the governor put the debt-ridden canal on the market again. In October 1857, its nemesis, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, purchased the canal for the bargain price of $7.5 million without the previous agreement to maintain complete service. Some groups objected to the monopoly this gave the railroad, while others favored the idea because it would provide reliable, year-round transportation as well as purge the government of the poorly managed and politically misused "Old State Robber."[69]

Three months after the canal's sale, however, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company realized its folly, closed the Portage incline, and the iron apparatus was removed.[70] The Main Line was closed section by section, beginning with the Western Division. The Juniata Division was the last to operate, until 1864-76, while other sections were allowed to simply dry up. The canal towns, left stranded along a stagnating channel of odorous water, like the turnpike towns before them, slowly began to fade. By 1879 the once-important shipping center of Hollidaysburg at the base of the Portage Railroad was described as "but the shadow of its former self," while the canal lay "with ruined locks and broken bridges, a relic of early American engineering"; few traces of the Old Portage or New Portage railroads were evident.[71]

"It is the intention of the Company to not permit any use of the canal grounds either to travel upon or make crossings over or otherwise," reported The Watchman in 1890. "This is done to keep people from infringing upon their rights." The following year the canal was filled in and affiliated structures dismantled, thus ending a social and economic era for the adjacent towns.[72]

Localities along the railroad then began to experience the growth and prosperity previously monopolized by the canal towns. Altoona, for instance, was developed specifically as a railroad-company town. The Pennsylvania Railroad was instrumental in establishing newspapers, schools, libraries, and similar institutions there.[73] In 1858 it acquired a number of smaller branch canals and constructed numerous additional rail lines across the state so that soon the Pennsylvania Railroad branched out into neighboring states.[74]

[68] McCullough, 158.

[69] Schotter, 46; Thomas J. Chapman, The Valley of the Conemaugh (Altoona: McCrum and Dern, 1865), 97-98.

[70] McCullough, 164; Africa, 36; Schotter, 47.

[71] McCullough, 164, 166, 172; James Dredge, The Pennsylvania Railroad: Its Origins, Construction and Management (NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1879), 5-6,

[72] Albert Rung, "Waning Canal Days in the Juniata Valley," Daily News (28 January, 1967).

[73] Dredge, 23.

[74] Klein, 26.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Conemaugh and Juniata river valleys are separated by the north-south axis of the Continental Divide. Both valleys contain fertile soil, dense timberland, and a multitude of streams. The land is rich with iron ore, bituminous coal, lead, alum, salt, and other minerals said to be "efficacious in certain diseases."[75] Resources specifically applicable to residential and commercial construction were at hand: fire clay for making bricks, gypsum used in plaster, limestone, sandstone, slate, and "mineral paint beds" containing ochre and umber pigments.[76] This variety of resources is reflected in the diverse regional building stock.

Until 1860 Pennsylvania was the nation's leading producer of wheat, rye, and grass seed, as well as the North's leading producer of Indian corn. It ranked second to New York in the production of buckwheat, fruit, hay, oats, and animals for slaughter.[77] Despite the importance of other industries, agriculture remained the chief occupation for many years.[78]

The Juniata Valley, east of the Alleghenies, was especially noted for the production of grains and grasses. The soil in the Conemaugh Valley, west of the mountains, was "not too rough for cultivation, [and] is tolerably fertile, producing crops of wheat, oats, grass, &c."[79] It was, however, "too rich" to sustain the production of grain unless the soil was first depleted by harvests of hemp or Indian corn.[80] In addition to the crops themselves, products include flax, flaxseed (linseed) oil, beeswax, honeybutter, cheese, and wool. Horses, cattle, and sheep also were raised in large numbers and driven to eastern markets.[81]

Agriculture-associated industries in the region included woolen mills, gristmills, flourmills, and breweries. The Juniata served woolen factories, and throughout the Conemaugh Valley threshing machines and "hay elevators," or harpoon hay forks, were manufactured. Conemaugh-produced grain supplied the ingredients for strawboard mills and starch factories.[82]

[75] Source unknown.

[76] Jordan, 13; Chapman, 15; I.D. Rupp, Geographical Catechism of Pennsylvania. . . (Harrisburg: John Winebrenner, 1836), 25; Stewart, 69; Samuel T. Wiley, Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana County (Philadelphia: John Gresham & Co., 1891); reprint, Closson Press, 1982.

[77] William M. Cornell, History of Pennsylvania from the Earliest Discovery to the Present Time (Philadelphia: Quaker City Publishing House, 1876), 266.

[78] John W. Jordan, A History of the Juniata and Its People (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913), 298.

[79] Trego, 259.

[80] Stephenson W. Fletcher, Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1971), 144.

[81] Stephenson, 175th, 533; Trego, 259.

[82] Trego, 257; Africa, 425; Stephenson, 175th, 236-39.

Other regional industries included blacksmithing, tanning, and sugaring, and Juniata Valley sandstone was crushed for shipment to Pittsburgh glassworks.[83] Some architectural supplies came from a nail factory and water-powered saw and chopping mills; a sash, door, and blind factory was also based in Indiana County.[84] The lumber industry provided materials for sawmills and similar enterprises. It was used to make tools, guns, cabinets, spinning wheels, wagons, sleds, framing members, lath, clapboards, bridge and ship members, and barrels. Raw lumber was used for charcoal, railroad ties, cordwood for locomotives, rafts, potash, and pearlash. Oak and hemlock bark was used in tanning leather for harnesses, saddles, and shoes.[85]

One of the earliest iron furnaces in the Juniata Valley was established in the Juniata Valley after the Revolutionary War. In 1785 the Bedford Furnace and Forge was built by George Ashman, Charles Ridgely, Thomas Cromwell, and Tempest Tucker, and by 1817 many more such works were operating.[86] The first furnace west of the Allegheny Mountains was located on Jacob's Creek about 1790.[87] Iron manufacture soon became one of the leading regional industries, with shipping as far as Louisville, Cincinnati, and New Orleans; Juniata Valley iron had an international reputation of excellence.[88] In 1865 the Cambria Iron Works in Johnstown on the Conemaugh River was described as the "largest and most complete ironworks in the Union, if not in the world."[89]

Ironworks required a supply of quality iron ore, timber to use as charcoal for fuel, lime, and relative proximity to a dependable market, transportation route and water source for power. The Juniata and Conemaugh valleys provided it all. Prior to 1880 Pennsylvania led all other states in the production of pig iron and mining of iron ore, a claim later relinquished to Michigan and Minnesota.[90] Pig iron and, to a lesser degree cast pots, pans, skillets, kettles, dutch ovens, and firebacks, were produced in a blast furnace. The pig iron was refined by heating and hammering into iron bars, which blacksmiths used to make tools: tire irons, axes, hoes, shovels, chains, scythes, horse shoes, wagon wheels, nails, hinges, and bolts.

Salt was first discovered near Saltsburg in the Conemaugh Valley about 1812-13. Considered so valuable that "no one was permitted to walk heavily over the floor while the operation of measuring it was going on," a bushel of salt was at one time worth "a good cow

[83] Egle, 777.

[84] Trego, 257; Africa, 425.

[85] Stephenson, 175th, 211, 527-28; Fletcher, 329.

[86] Rupp, 36.

[87] Cornell, 283.

[88] Stephenson, 175th, 68.

[89] Chapman, 13.

[90] History of the Juniata Valley in Three Volumes (Harrisburg: National History Association, 1936), 315.

and her calf."[91] By 1836 the Conemaugh, Kiskiminetas, and Allegheny rivers were heralded as possessing the "most productive saline springs in Pennsylvania"[92] By 1840 Pennsylvania was the leading U.S. producer of salt.[93]

Early salt supplies were shipped to Pittsburgh by keelboat or wagon. Although, as historian Thomas Chapman reported in 1865, "The canal which was afterwards made to pass through this region, brought the most available means of transportation to these works, and salt formed one of the chief staples of commerce of that section, and was carried to every part of the country."[94]

Between 1819 and 1826 competition drove the price of salt as low as $1 per barrel. By 1854 measures were taken to eliminate threats from foreign salt manufactors. Major S.S. Jamison of Saltsburg introduced a bill to the state legislature that would have imposed a duty on imported salt. But in the 1860s salt produced more cheaply in Michigan, transported via Great Lakes, contributed to the abandonment of the Western Division of the canal.[95]

CONCLUSION

The settlement and subsequent development of the horizontal corridor in which Alexandria and Saltsburg lie in southwestern Pennsylvania is common to all the towns founded in association with the Pennsylvania Canal. They evolved as independent municipalities, however, with characteristics individual enough to warrant separate investigation based on location, mineral wealth, and commercial foundations. Findings presented in this overview support a chronology that begins with a period of early settlement, from the mid-eighteenth century to the late-1820s, when the canal was planned and under construction. The heyday of the canal itself occurred from this point through mid-century, during which the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal was the single-largest impetus for the maturation of adjacent towns and industries.

The canal and railroad coexisted for a short period, which varied according to locale, when both were operated under the dominating ownership of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Upon the demise of the canal came the railroad era; it overtook--literally and figuratively--the canal and shifted regional development to towns along the tracks and ongoing coal and iron-ore industries. And last, local economic decline and the departure of the railroad entirely during the twentieth century, when both towns were left without a major transportation entity. Alexandria and Saltsburg were thus purged of their primary economic benefactor and henceforth remained static but stable, witnessing little or no significant

[91] Fletcher, 186, 405.

[92] Rupp, Geographical Catechism. . ., 37.

[93] Fletcher, 406.

[94] Chapman, 63.

[95] Stephenson, 175th, 523.

economic advancement.

Within the chronological sequence of canal-specific events, there are cultural facets to the two developing communities that contribute to a more three-dimensional sense of time and place, specifically: transportation (trail, river, pike, canal, railroad), commerce and industry (mercantilism, extractives, agriculture, food and lodging, manufacturing, professionals), and community (education, ethnicity, religon, social and fraternal organizations). Collectively, this data presents an appropriate historical context in which to assess the architectural resources of the canal towns Alexandria and Saltsburg.

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Chapter 3:

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF ALEXANDRIA

INTRODUCTION

Alexandria is a small central-Pennsylvania town that owes its development to the early nineteenth-century construction of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, which opened up east-west commercial activity between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The canal bisected Alexandria, feeding off its Juniata River, and nourishing the thriving commercial and small-industrial center until well after the Civil War, even after it was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. After the canal was closed and the railroad main line bypassed Alexandria, the town's once-stable economy began to ebb.

Today, little physical evidence of the canal itself remains amid the largely extant stock of buildings from that era. The bulk of the vernacular residential and commercial architecture can be collectively characterized as modest, with the exception of a handful of high-style buildings erected late in the town's development. Collectively, however, they illustrate the development of a typical vernacular townscape. The purpose of this study is to chronicle the development of Alexandria--highlighted by nineteenth-century canal and railroad eras--with particular emphasis on the buildings and architectural heritage that remain intact.

LOCATION

Alexandria is located approximately 150 miles east of Pittsburgh in Porter Township, northwest Huntingdon County. Laid out in 1798, the town is nestled on the northeast shore of the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River, bounded on the west by one of its tributaries. It is situated approximately one mile east of the town of Water Street, one mile south of Barree and the Juniata River, and about seven miles northwest of Huntingdon.

The route of the former Pennsylvania Canal and existing Pennsylvania Railroad branch railbed traverses the borough along a southeast-to-northwest axis that roughly follows the river. Old U.S. 22 parallels this historical line through the borough, where it constitutes the majority of Main Street.

Topographically Alexandria lies between Warrior Ridge, which was noted for large deposits of fire-clay during the late-nineteenth century, and Tussey Mountain, which may have been named after early Porter Township settler John Tussey.[1] Where the Juniata River flows southeast past the town, it disrupts slightly the southern boundary of the grid. Rocky bluffs along its south bank overlook the town. Today, as in the eighteenth century, the tree-covered hills and surrounding countryside are filled with iron ore. The region is rich with clusters of sandstone and limestone deposits; along the streams, fertile soil tops a limestone base. During

[1] Alexandria Community Bi-centennial (No publisher given, 1955).

the late nineteenth century the "Hart's Log Valley" was one of the most prosperous agricultural regions in the county, boasting a number of prosperous farms.[2] Principal natural resources were timber and the Juniata River itself, collectively providing the basis for the commercial prosperity that occurred when the Pennsylvania Canal began operating in Alexandria.

EARLY SETTLEMENT: 1730 - 1829

White settlement of the Juniata Valley occurred after 1755 because William Penn and his heirs--the proprietaries of Pennsylvania--would not permit occupation of the land until it had been properly purchased from the Indians in 1754. Prior to this, as early as 1731, the only whites to travel through the valley were missionaries, explorers, government agents mapping the area, and Indian traders. One such man was John Hart. Licensed as a trader in 1744, Hart maintained a successful relationship with the Indians of western Pennsylvania until 1755, when settlers began to arrive--after which he is believed to have moved westward.[3]

Hart's legacy to the region and local lore was his name and the fallen white oak log at which legend says he salted his horses. Thus, the area was designated Hartslog Valley, in which the founding Alexandria land was called the Hartslog tract (Figure 3.1).

Pioneers settled along streams, rivers and other sources of water between Huntingdon and Tussey Mountain. The first house alleged to exist on the site of present-day Alexandria was built and occupied by two Scots, Matthew Neal and Hugh Glover. It served as a trading post for general goods as well as whiskey, which apparently contributed to so many brawls that the area was popularly known as "Battle Swamp."[4]

The first settlers to the Juniata Valley were largely the Scotch-Irish who immigrated for religious reasons. In their homeland they had been persecuted since the massacre of Irish Protestants in 1641, temporarily finding refuge in northern Scotland until laws were enacted that caused further hardship for both Irish and Scottish religious groups. After emigrating to Colonial America, they settled in concentration near the Maryland/Pennsylvania line.[5] Most were Presbyterian, although a good number of Lutherans and some Roman Catholics lived in the valley, too. As many as half the early settlers may have been agnostic.[6]

James Sterrat of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, purchased the 400-acre Hartslog tract in 1754 from the Provincial Government. The French and Indian War that began the following year,

[2] J. Simpson Africa, History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), 408.

[3] Jean P. Harshbarger, Nancy R. Taylor, Sara H. Zabriskie et al., Hartslog Heritage (State College, PA: K.B. Offset Printing, 1975), 7.

[4] U.J. Jones, History of the Juniata Valley (Harrisburg, PA: Telegraph Press, 1940), 183-84.

[5] I.D. Rupp, History and Topography of Northumberland, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Centre, Union, Columbia, Juniata and Clinton Counties, Pa. (Lancaster, PA: G. Hills, 1847), 74.

[6] Jones, 183.

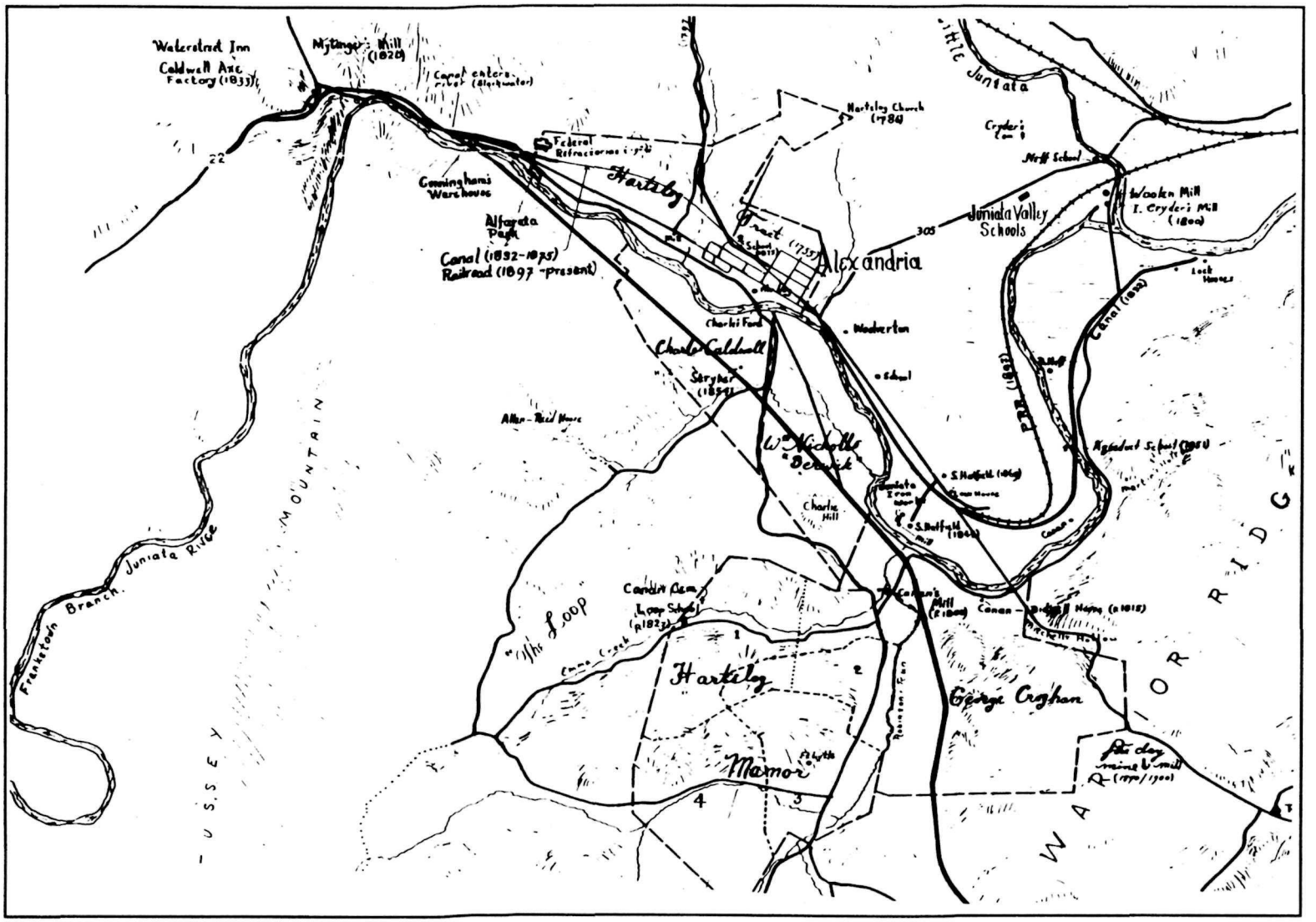


Figure 3.1. Vicinity of Alexandria, Porter Township, showing the Hartslog Tract of 1755 and the routes introduced by the canal and railroad (F.R. Zabriskie, 1975).

however, prohibited immediate settlement; it also discouraged and delayed attempts to survey the land.[7]

By 1766 John Gemmill (died 1785), an early arrival, owned the land that today comprises Alexandria--then part of Barree Township, Bedford County. Charles Caldwell and his family were isolated residents, for the influx of families proceeded slowly until after the Revolutionary War, which marked the beginning the Hartslog area's steady settlement. The county's population had increased dramatically enough to warrant a division, so in 1787--the same year Pennyslvania ratified the Constitution and became a state--Huntingdon County was formed out of the northern portion of Bedford, a common practice as the density of developing regions increased.[8]

Part of this population increase occurred in what was to become Alexandria, where a number of dwellings were erected in the 1790s. In 1796 all the buildings in Alexandria except one were constructed of log, according to tax-assessment records. Four years later, twenty-six dwellings existed that presumably housed the town's 139 inhabitants.[9]

In 1793 Elizabeth Gemmill (1735-1823), widow of John Gemmill, had the town of Alexandria formally laid out; the origin of the name is unknown. The town was organized on a grid pattern, the typical planning practice in the western frontier during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Front (also historically cited as First and Main) Street parallels the river, followed on the north by Second (Shelton) Street and Third (Pine) Street. These three primary thoroughfares are subdivided by 20-foot alleys and intersect with South, Bridge, and Hartslog streets. This grid was divided into 100 lots measuring 60 feet by 200 feet, except for those in the eastern section along the river. Four shorter tracts bounded the "Diamond," the site of a pre-1800 twice-weekly market house.

These diamonds, "an open space consisting of the right-angle intersection of two streets at or near the most functionally central point of a town," are common elements to towns such as Alexandria in west-central Pennsylvania.[10] Its location one block from Main Street and the pike implies a hoped-for development for this section of town, one that was apparently derailed by the introduction of the canal. The cost of land (given in English pounds), for instance, puts this area at the most exclusive: lots around the diamond were priced at £7; on Main Street, £5.10; Second Street, £4; and Third Street, £3.[11] Gemmill, and later her heirs, collected ground rent amounting to about $1 a year for each of these lots from 1793 until

[7] Harshbarger, 7.

[8] Harshbarger, 13.

[9] Harshbarger, 13, 20.

[10] Wilbur Zelinsky, "The Pennsylvania Town: An Overdue Geographical Account," The Geographical Review (April 1977), 136.

[11] Harshbarger, 12.

about 1920, when the practice was outlawed.[12]

The Gemmill claim to the Hartslog land was not actually upheld by the Board of Property until 1796, however. This may be the reason that although the surveyed lots were rented and built upon from 1793, none was actually sold until five years later when the town plan was attested to and recorded on August 7, 1798.[13] Main Street buildings included those of William McKillip, Lewis Mytinger, and Matthew Gray, as well as the dwellings and businesses of Christian Kemler on the diamond and Robert Stitt on Second Street,

One of the oldest dwellings in Alexandria, as well as the only stone structure still standing, is that of merchant and contractor John Cresswell (HABS No. PA-5400), which he erected about 1816 at Main and High streets. A typical early-nineteenth century dwelling, it is three bays wide and two stories high organized on a side-hall plan with a one-story rear ell that historically contained the kitchen.

Commerce/Industry

The industry necessary to fuel Alexandria's early commercial activities along the Juniata River was small and scarce. Those businesses that did exist were designed for local production and consumption. Early skilled laborers included Stitt, a joiner; Kemler, a hatter; and McKillip, a tanner. There were also cobblers, carpenters (many, like Benjamin Cross, who built houses), smiths and--crucial to valley development--millers. By 1808 a modestly busy trading character was evolving in Alexandria, from whence timber arks and log rafts transported the valley's products downriver. These included an array of goods that reflect the locale's agricultural economy--grain, whiskey and flour--as well as wood for charcoal and the most important export item, iron.

The transportation of Juniata iron from two forges in the general vicinity was the largest industrial enterprise in Alexandria at that time. The Barree Forge opened north of town in 1794 and originally processed iron from the Centre Furnace in Centre County; later it obtained its iron from the nearby Mt. Etna Furnace. Alexandria shipped its products, as well as those of the Huntingdon Furnace and the Tyrone and Dorsey forges.[14]

In 1810 Alexandria's population was 751. Yet only four years later its area had increased enough to justify the establishment of Porter Township, named for Revolutionary War General Andrew Porter, an area today defined by Porter, Walker and Juniata townships.[15] Although agriculture and the iron industry continued to be the economic mainstay of the area, local development is reflected in the diversification and slight sophistication of local commerce. Porter Township could boast seven distilleries, three grist mills, four sawmills, three tanneries,

[12] Africa, 426.

[13] Alexandria Community Bi-Centennial, 8.

[14] Harshbarger, 16, 24.

[15] John W. Jordan, A History of the Juniata Valley and its People (N.Y.: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913), 79; Milton S. Lytle, History of Huntingdon County in the State of Pennsylvania (Lancaster: William Roy, 1876), 299.

one hempmill, one fulling mill, and one carding machine.[16]

Several taverns and inns existed in Alexandria by this time, and at least one served as the stage-coach office and pick-up point. During the winter of 1809-10, for example, the stage departed each Saturday from the public house of John Walker on Main Street, two lots east of Hartslog Street[17]; since the stage traveled along this primary thoroughfare--which superseded the lower road to Water Street--this was the ideal location for lodging establishments.

Some buildings were not erected for this express purpose, but were converted from dwellings at a later time. One of these is Robert Lytle's Shelter Inn (HABS No. PA-5408), one of the oldest buildings in town, erected about 1804 for one of Elizabeth Gemmill's daughters. The two-story, Federal-style brick inn was located on Second Street, near the canal and one block north of the Main Street.

General merchandise stores provided supplies from clothing to dry goods to pocket Bibles, although the businesses seemed to change hands or turn over with great frequency. William Moore purchased the store of John Ostler on Main Street in 1830; built about 1798 (lot No. 9), Moore was the fourth owner and occupant.

A series of physicians served Alexandria beginning in 1801 with Drs. John Buchanan and Silas Dibble, as well as Dr. James Charlton, who was in partnership with Dr. Daniel Houtz. Houtz advertised in 1828 "a new apothecary establishment in Alexandria in the house lately occupied by Conrad Bucher, one door east of Bucher and Porter's store"; he would not erect his two-story brick house and office (HABS No. PA-5401, 5402) near central Main Street until 1842, however.[18]

Transportation

Pennsylvania's earliest transportation system evolved during the 1750s. In the Hartslog Valley, the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River was a major east-west waterway and means of travel. The Frankstown Path, the major east-west overland route--also known as the Great Road--forded the Juniata at Hartslog Street at what was then the west edge of the community. The road then turned west toward the town of Water Street. Most roads were so crude and unreliable that they could only accommodate travelers on foot or horseback.

After the turn of the century, road improvements opened up the interior, and in 1808 the Juniata Mail Stage Line--the first stage route in Huntingdon County--made a weekly stop in Alexandria, the route's western terminus.[19] The frequency of stage runs increased again in 1808 after the turnpike from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh, via Alexandria, was "opened, digged

[16] Alexandria Community Bi-Centennial, 10.

[17] Alexandria Community Bi-Centennial, 9.

[18] Harshbarger, 26-27.

[19] Africa, 426.

and bridged [so] that horses and wagons could pass and repass." As a result, weekly mail and stage service commenced that same year. Passengers paid 6 cents per mile, which included 14 pounds of luggage.[20]

Community

There was little in the way of formal entertainment in Alexandria prior to the canal boom. One of the most popular social activities--for participants and observers--was the local militia drill, which included the Huntingdon Light Dragoons of Alexandria. As the threat levied by the War of 1812 diminished, the militia met less and less frequently until it was finally disbanded in 1837.

Dancing at "publick balls" and private gatherings was another leisure pastime. In 1804, for instance, dancing master Blondel St. Hilaire hosted a ball at John Walker's tavern starting at "early candlelight." The Presbyterian church was apparently opposed to such public gatherings, though private ones were acceptable.[21]

Boys and girls attended private schools in Alexandria prior to the Free School Act of 1834 when the public school law was passed in Pennsylvania, although this legislation did not make attendance mandatory. A schoolmaster was sought through newspaper advertisements as early as 1807, and throughout the early decades of the century more than one person in this capacity resided in the Alexandria area. The first school was a log building that sat where the Presbyterian Cemetery is today. This was replaced about 1830 by the "'Octagon' brick school house which stood on the hill, not far from the old log house," on R.G. Stewart's farm. On or shortly after this, a school for girls was established by a Miss Armstrong in a blue house located on town lot No. 12. Anne Gemmill Stewart founded a school in her house between 1826-32; but located on lot No. 107, it lay within the canal right-of-way and was shortlived. In 1835, the first elected school officials for Porter Township were Isaac Martin, Dr. Daniel Houtz, G.B Young, Thomas Hanna, Henry Knode and John Hewitt.[22]

For many years the area's only religious gatherings were those of the Hartslog Presbyterian congregation, formed in 1785. In 1814 this group split because of a perceived pro-British remark made by the reverend, and five years later the unhappy faction erected the frame "White Church" on land now occupied by Alexandria's Presbyterian Cemetery, bought from Elizabeth Gemmill for $30. In 1825 the Hartlog Presbyterian Church built its own brick meeting house on the site of the present Christ United Church of Christ, which the congregation used until 1831 when it was reconciled and reunited with the former group. Henceforth they met in the White Church until 1851; the brick meeting house was sold to James Wilson in 1833 for $800. The first Methodist congregation was formed in 1828, followed a year later by a Sunday school, but it was not until the mid 1830s that they erected a church on lot No. 159 at a cost of $450.

[20] Lytle, 138-40; Harshbarger, 22.

[21] Harshbarger, 27.

[22] Harshbarger, 29-30.

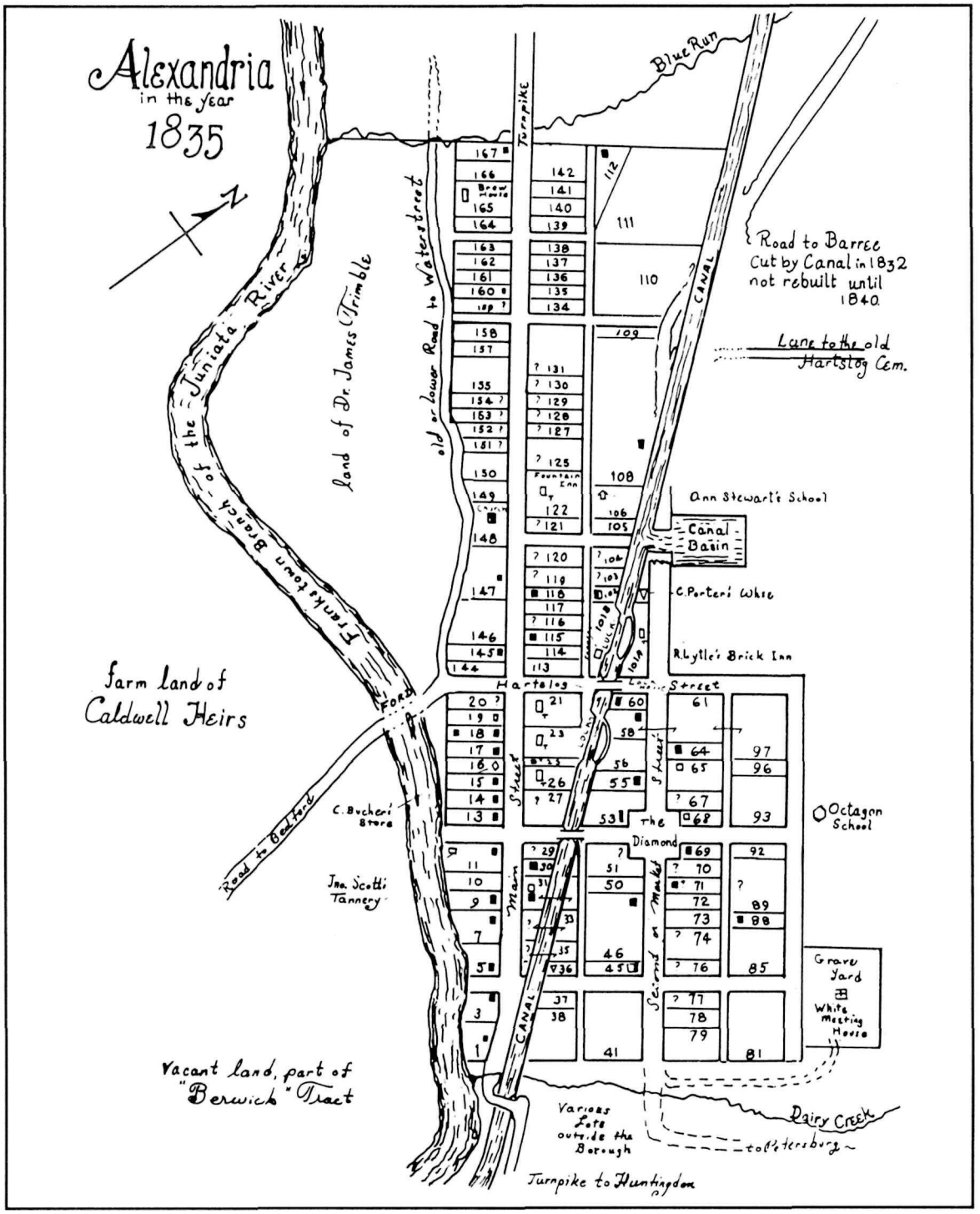


Figure 3.2 Map of Alexandria ca. 1835, showing the newly opened canal, lower road to Water Street, and developing street grid that is sparsely dotted with houses (J.P. Harshbarger et al., Hartslog Heritage, 1975).

Poised on the cusp of a new era, all facets of Alexandria's development were merging to form a well-rounded and healthy community. Transportation improvements permitted easier travel and better communication. The pike, constructed by the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike Road Company, was financed through the sale of stock; and upon completion a toll was charged travelers at periodic gates, one of which was located between Alexandria and Water Street. The seventy-seven mile section between Huntingdon and Blairsville was completed in 1820; a 12-inch mile marker with an iron plaque was extant on the north side of Main Street near High Street as late as 1976.[23] By February 1829 daily stages ran through Alexandria, which found itself advantageously located on the main highway leading West.[24] The turnpike physically developed as an extension of Main Street, paralleling the northwest path of the river and the old "Road to Waterstreet" that lay between the new turnpike and the river. In 1831 the bridge carrying the turnpike over the branch of the Juniata below Alexandria was complete. That same year, next-day mail service was provided from Harrisburg to Alexandria; two-day service continued on to Pittsburgh.

Although maps indicate that in general only a handful of buildings were located west of Hartslog Street, it is possible that some early dwellings, such as the Patrick McManus House (HABS No. PA-5393) built concurrent or prior to the turnpike, intentionally fronted this new thoroughfare. A two-story frame house on the western edge of present-day Alexandria, the McManus house has been modified over the years to include a partially recessed south facade that undoubtedly served as a rear porch.

In April 1827 the town's growth was officially recognized by its incorporation as a borough; extension of the western boundary--the same as today's--was approved on April 4, 1831.[25] One burgess and five councilmen made up the elected council, which drew support from the clerk and other officers. After Main Street extended westward, however, additional lots were laid out along both flanks, which sold for $25 to $75 each.[26] Dr. James Trimble, grandson-in-law of Elizabeth Gemmill, platted the first addition to the borough and began selling lots in 1829, though this transaction was not recorded until July 1847. He was almost certainly motivated by the rising population and prosperity ensured by the canal.[27] Two later additions resulted in enlarged town boundaries: Brown's Addition at the time of the 1827 incorporation, and a similar size tract along Main Street by Mary Ann McLain.

Just over thirty years after Elizabeth Gemmill laid out Alexandria, it was a community characterized by a fairly homogeneous society that combined activities of religion, education, and commerce. Almost all inhabitants were a mix of the Scotch-Irish and German descent that still predominates; there were few ethnic or religious minorities.

[23] Pennsylvania Historic Resources Inventory form.

[24] Africa, 427.

[25] Africa, 426.

[26] Alexandria Community Bi-Centennial, 9.

[27] Africa, 426.

CANAL ERA: 1830 - 1875

Vital to the continued prosperity of Alexandria's commercial center was the announcement of the forthcoming Pennsylvania Canal, an important central link in a statewide system ultimately composed of more than 1,200 miles.[28] Formal preparations for the waterway began in 1823 when the Pennsylvania General Assembly appointed a canal commission. Two years later, plans under way for the canal to extend west through Alexandria (Figure 3.2) to at least Hollidaysburg precipitated a building boom that was founded on a renewed sense of permanency. Brick was introduced as the preferred building material for houses and stores, usurping a regional tradition of log and stone construction associated with the settlement era.

Most architecturally elaborate structures were built during the period of canal-related affluency between 1830 and 1850, when the number of dwellings rose to between sixty-four and 100.[29] Thus, the legacy of Scotch-Irish and German inhabitants is a number of solidly built brick and frame houses combined with two nationally popular architectural movements, Federal and Greek Revival styling. An estimated 1,221 persons lived in Alexandria in 1830,[30] many of whom likely arrived as canal-construction laborers.

Despite the projected prosperity associated with the canal, several Alexandrians had reservations about its construction. One concern stemmed from the supposition that the canal would usurp the turnpike, for which Alexandria residents had contributed considerable financial support. The town's inhabitants were probably also aware of the hostility felt by wagoners and railroad promoters toward its coming.[31] Yet, the largest harbinger of anti-canal sentiments may have been the collective body of landowners whose property the canal path would cut short.

Canal commissioners and their surveyors selected the right-of-way primarily by drawing a straight line that paralleled as closely as possible the river; affected landowners could make claims for buildings lost or damages sustained due to construction.[32] The canal required the flattest available land, to necessitate the fewest possible locks; this formula inevitably entailed crossing a number of privately owned lots. Many claims for compensation were filed for damages incurred during construction.

The Juniata Division of the Pennsylvania Canal main line was legislated in 1827 (and amended shortly thereafter) to extend from Duncan's Island to Hollidaysburg, a route of a little more than 127 miles. By 1831 the canal between Huntingdon and Hollidaysburg was under way, and work continued until spring 1833 when regular shipping began. The Juniata

[28] McCullough, 170.

[29] Harshbarger, 41.

[30] Jordan, 211.

[31] Alvin F. Harlow, Old Towpaths (NY: D. Appleton and Co., 1926), 138.

[32] Robert McCullough and Walter Leuba, The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (York, PA: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973), 44.

Division cost $2.6 to $3.6 million to build, well beyond the original estimate of $1.7 million.[33] Topographic conditions, particularly the mountains, rendered construction relatively difficult. Altogether, this division required eighty-eight locks to overcome a rise of 582 feet. Locks No. 49 and No. 50 were constructed in Alexandria just west and east of Hartslog Street; there was a bridge across the canal at Hartslog Street .

In Alexandria, the lockkeeper's house (HABS No. PA-5406) was built along the canal path across from the Shelter Inn, fronting it along Hartslog Street at an angle--in keeping with the canal route--that defied the town grid. It is unknown whether this house (ca. 1832) was erected by the canal commission or by Robert McClelland--and moved--from whom the lot was "taken by the common W. [commonwealth] for [a] lock house" in 1835.[34] The modest, framed gable house was nevertheless oriented with the canal in mind. Laborers directly associated with the canal included the muleskinners who drove the teams of horses and mules, and the boat owners and captains. Six boatsmen and three boat makers resided in Alexandria Borough at mid-century; each lockkeeper lived rent-free in a company-owned dwelling, from which he was responsible for the two locks.[35] The boats appear in way bills as often as once a week, with names such as Farmer's Hope, Shamrock, Bonnet of Blue, and Minerva.[36]

Commerce/Industry

The impact of the canal was immediate. Mercantile emphases shifted away from the scale of general stores to wholesale businesses and large warehouses.[37] These were owned by individual merchants or partnerships, such as that of Conrad Bucher and John Porter. After their partnership ended in 1836, Porter is known to have shipped the iron of three companies, as well as coffee and various grains.[38]

Like many Alexandrians, Porter and Bucher both owned homes near their respective businesses at the east end of Main Street. Porter's two-story, brick Federal-style home (HABS No. PA-5407) exemplifies the typical middle-class dwelling in Alexandria throughout the nineteenth century. William Phillips, the merchant who transformed the Odd Fellows Hall (ca. 1834) into his residence, lived across from his general merchandise and dry goods store.

Another group of homes were erected toward the western end of Main Street during the 1830s--although it is often difficult to determine which tracts contained any buildings at all--and these were somewhat removed from the concentration of business establishments. One belonged to Alexander Stitt who owned a lucrative tannery (HABS No. PA-5396). His

[33] Archer Hulbert, The Great American Canals I, vol. 13, Historic Highways of America (Cleveland: 1902-05), reprint (NY: AMS Press, 1971), 211; McCullough, 28.

[34] State Archives Record Group No. 17, Juniata Division Reports 1826-40, Box 11.

[35] McCullough, 118-19.

[36] Harshbarger, 41, 45.

[37] Harshbarger, 40.

[38] Africa, 427.

three-bay, frame house on Main west of Hartslog Street provided something of a contrast to the brick homes of his prosperous neighbors down the street.

The transition to commercial and industrial center based on trading was less apparent in the central business district along Main Street where the oldest houses and stores owned by the same person were often close together. In contrast, the secondary areas away from Main Street, sometimes near the canal, witnessed a growing number of industrial sites that include Henry Willibrand's new brewery (HABS No. PA-5409), which still stands near the western edge of Alexandria; William Brown's weaving shop; George Wilson's cabinet-making concern; and three smithshops and two tanneries. One of these, the tannery of Robert Lytle and Alexander Stitt, occupied the single-largest business site in Alexandria at what would become the south side of the canal lock on Hartslog Street. Industrial concerns such as tanneries, smiths, breweries, and mills were logically located on the outer fringes of the community near water, which provided transportation as well as a power source.

In 1857, other Alexandria inhabitants were involved in a variety of commercial pursuits, as indicated by business notices posted that year: William Baker, carpenter and builder; J.H. Dysart, merchant and custom miller; William Moore, dealer in general merchandise; John Porter, farmer; W.S. Walker, manufacturer of tin and sheet-iron and copper ware, as well as stoves.[39]

By this time, the four blocks between Hartslog Street and Blue Run were lined with dwellings, shops and a handful of churches (Figure 3.3). E.P. Walker's general merchandise store was located in his two-story, brick gable-front store (HABS No. PA-5410) on Main Street. Though erected apart from the Main Street hub, it was next to Walker's house. Joseph Piper located his carriages and wagons firm toward the western end of Main Street, as Benjamin Cross did his carpentry shop and, at the terminus, the gristmill of Dr. J.M. Gemmill. The Cross house (HABS No. PA-5395), erected ca. 1851, boasts an excellent example of Greek Revival detailing on the front-facing gable, with pilasters and a dominating pediment. The balance of the building is unusual in that entrance is gained on the long facade, which has little ornamentation, and a sparse and irregular window arrangement.

Community

The religious circles expanded with the arrival of the German Reformed Church and reconciliation of the Presbyterian Church.[40] Two congregations completed new churches in Alexandria in 1851: German Reformed (HABS No. PA-5412) and Presbyterian (HABS No. PA-5413). These two Greek Revival edifices were almost identical--perhaps designed by the same architect, or modeled on the same precedent. The two-story, rectangular-plan brick buildings were both modestly articulated by pilasters and recessed wall panels, into which tall windows were placed.

In 1868 the Methodist congregation left its old meeting house for a new, two-story

[39] William Christy, "Borough of Alexandria in Porter Township" (map, 1857).

[40] Harshbarger, 35.

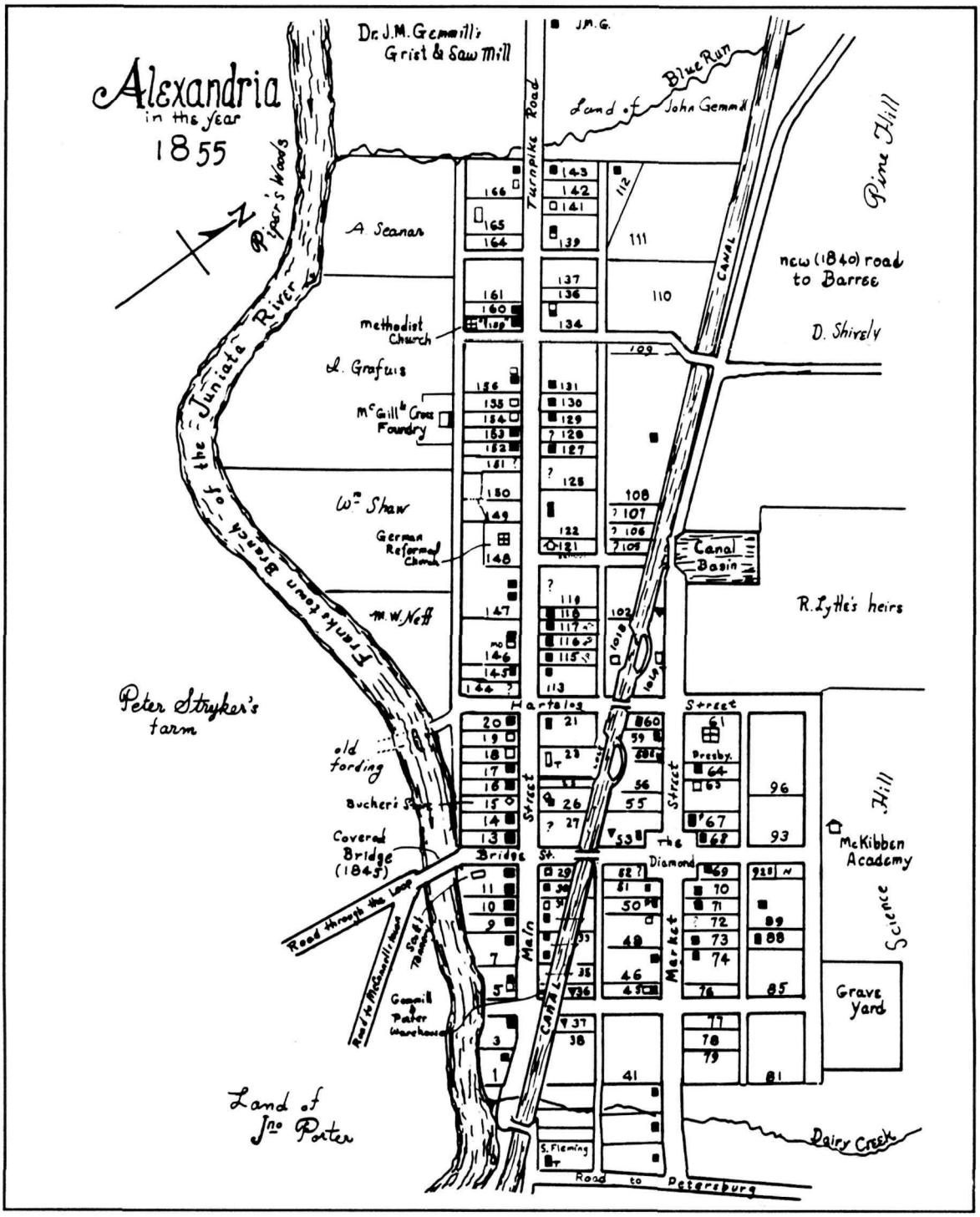


Figure 3.3 Map of Alexandria ca. 1855, showing the canal, covered bridge (1845), and burgeoning streetscape along the Turnpike Road (J.P. Harshbarger et al., Hartslog Heritage, 1975).

brick church it erected on lot No. 150, east of the former church on Main Street.[41] A year later, the Reformed Church--which has physically remained largely unaltered--dropped "German" from it name; by 1881 it became known as Christ Reformed Church.[42]

Following election of the first board of school directors in 1842, a number of schools opened in Alexandria. These include the Loop school, incorporated into the township's public system, and the Octagon school that was replaced by the McKibben Academy, led by Henry McKibben from 1853-76. The Alexandria High School (HABS No. PA-5411), completed in 1869, continued as a teaching facility until the 1920s. Architecturally distinguished by an Italianate cupola and hipped roof, it is academically remembered for graduating the first high school class in Porter Township.[43]

The social activities in Alexandria concurrent to the canal period were those of a prosperous--essentially one-class--community made up of self-made merchants, business owners, and laborers. One formal society, the International Order of Odd Fellows, Hartslog Lodge No. 286, was created in January 1848.[44] The group located its lodge on the busiest intersection in town, the corner of Bridge and Main streets. The two-story brick hall (HABS No. PA-5398) is distinguished from other similiar dwellings on Main Street by an ogee arch over the front door.

The Odd Fellows shared the building with the Sons of Temperance society for a number of years. It enjoyed a sizable membership of ninety, including many of Alexandria's prominent merchants, until the Civil War when the number dropped off to only sixteen. In 1864 the lodge relinquished its charter and sold the hall to William Phillips. The latter purchased the lot across the street--which contained a log or frame building--in 1867 from the heirs of John Scott Sr., and a year later he erected the brick store. Phillips remodeled the Odd Fellows Hall into an imposing dwelling: a modestly styled but expansive seven bays, two stories tall on the main block and ell, with first- and second-story wraparound porches along the rear facades. Accounts differ, but between 1872-88, after the post-war repercussions diminished, the Odd Fellows relocated to a new site, and by 1881 there were twenty-eight members.[45] In addition to the Odd Fellows, there existed Hartslog chapters of the Knights of the Golden Eagle and Freemasons.

General entertainments were presented on the diamond, including traveling Indian shows and show wagons featuring exotic animals, croquet, and the Alexandria Band performing in parades and town sings. Throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century--the prosperous years of canal-shipping--Alexandria flourished overall.

[41] Harshbarger, 58.

[42] Africa, 434.

[43] Harshbarger, 58.

[44] Africa, 430.

[45] Africa, 430.

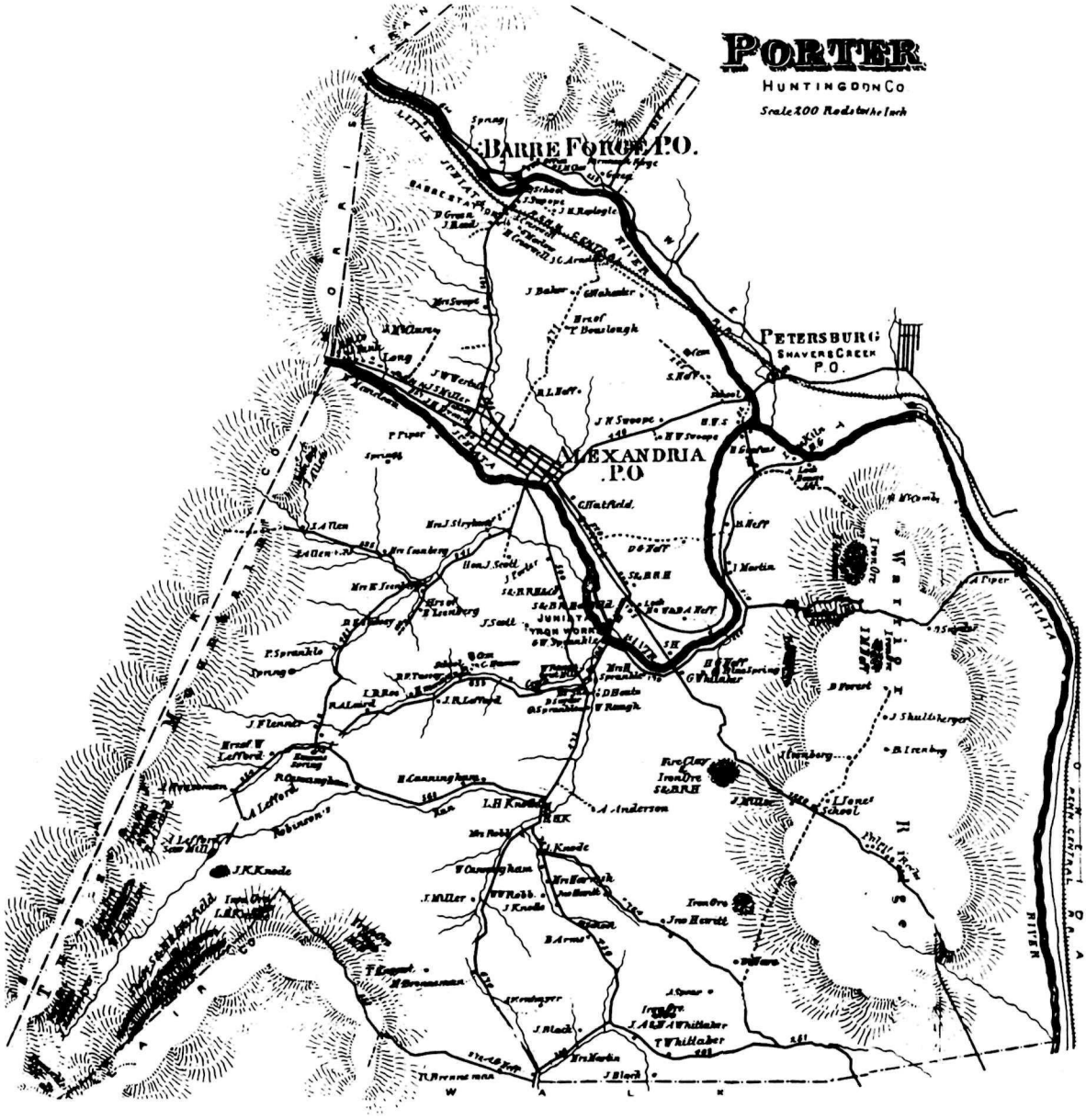


Figure 3.4 Map of Porter Township, Huntingdon County, 1873, showing Alexandria located between the Tussey Mountains and Warrior Ridge (Atlas of Blair and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania, 1873).

RAILROAD ERA: 1875 - 1930

Railroad transportation usurped canal use at a faster pace in some parts of the nation than others: it crossed the Allegheny Mountains in 1854, and thereafter began to replace the canal. The canal company continued to operate the Juniata Division, as well as others, for several years in the interest of the railroad.[46]

The canal through Alexandria officially closed in 1875; the Juniata ironworks continued to flourish and represent the principal industry in the Hartslog area until the canal was abandoned. Prior to 1900, a single track was laid through town, which was served by a small railway station (HABS No. PA-5415) erected in 1897. The Pennsylvania Railroad main line bypassed Alexandria to go, instead, north through Barree. The closing had other tangible and negative impacts, such as the problem of water stagnating in the canal bed and flooding of the canal and river, but Alexandria was by and large spared the effects of an economic depression during the years before the railroad was fully established. Despite little construction or significant development, Alexandria seems to have sustained itself during this interim period. A history of 1883 describes the town as "having a refined and moral population, while the healthfulness and quiet beauty of the borough is not excelled by any village of its size in the state."[47]

The railroad's initiation of full-fledged shipping via Alexandria in 1900 (Figure 3.5) marks the beginning of a second--albeit briefer--era of prosperity. The refactory brick plant, which followed the arrival of the railroad, for instance, employedd 150 to 200 men.The twentieth century witnessed the embellishment of Alexandria's modest townscape with the addition of laudable, high-style architecture. Credit for much of this belongs to two men of longtime Alexandria families: William Woolverton (1842-1914) and William Thompson (1823-1921). The men were cousins who spent part of their childhoods there, only to return after making their fortunes elsewhere. Thompson returned and proceeded to renovate and refurbish his family estate, Kilmarnock, of which only the carriage house remains (HABS No. PA-5405). Woolverton, a man of fashion and a society leader, established a farm and mansion near the home of his youth, used principally as a summer retreat. He called the estate, which was composed of at least 234 acres, Dorfgrenze Farm (later called Hartslog), which means "edge of the village."

Thompson and Woolverton commissioned and donated the Memorial Free Library (HABS No. PA-5414) to Alexandria in 1901, dedicating it to their mothers. The gesture was no doubt modeled after the extensive library-building program of industrialist Andrew Carnegie. The $16,000 Renaissance Revival-style building occupies a conspicuous setting on the east corner of Main and Hartslog Streets in the center of Alexandria, and it remains one of the most formal and unaltered buildings in town.

The library was designed by Frederick J. Shollar (1874-1960), a prominent Altoona-based architect who is credited with introducing Classical Revival styling to that town.

[46] Harlow, 138.

[47] Africa, 426.

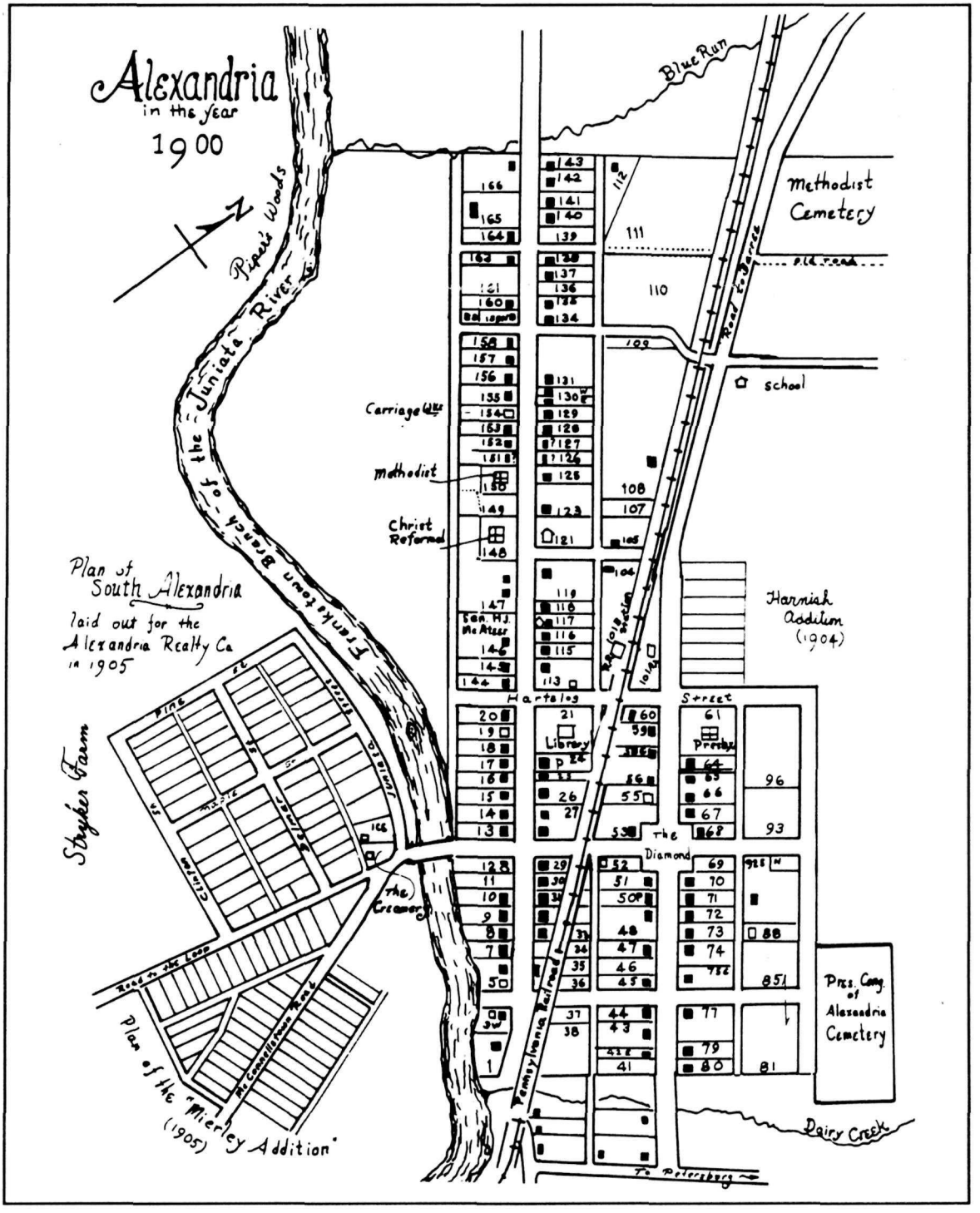


Figure 3.5 Map of Alexandria ca. 1900, showing the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks following the former canal bed and the new Mierley Addition across the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River (J.P. Harshbarger et al., Hartslog Heritage, 1975).

Shollar, with and without his sometimes-partner Frank Hersh, designed numerous buildings in Altoona, including the Altoona Trust Company building, Rothert Building, city hall, and the Jaffa Mosque.[48] The stone for the Alexandria library's foundation came from a local quarry.[49] The library on the first floor was established with an initial 2,000 books, while the auditorium on the second floor hosted many of the town's social events.

Woolverton, a director of the Pennsylvania Railroad, also allegedly convinced the company to replace its old Alexandria station with a modern structure more stylistically compatible with the library, across the street and south of it, which occurred in 1904.

Meanwhile, in 1906 Thompson financed the reconstruction and design of the facade of the Presbyterian Church on Second Street in the memory of his father, the Reverend James Thompson, who served as a pastor there. Architects transformed the Greek Revival decor into Second Gothic Revival through the incorporation of a detailed entrance and pointed-arch windows.[50]

This second wave of prosperity in Alexandria was relatively shortlived, for the railroad could not long compete with its successor in transportation--the automobile. Passenger rail service ceased in Alexandria in 1930 at the beginning of the Great Depression, and all rail service ceased in the 1970s.

CONCLUSION

Since the stock market crash of 1929 and the Depression of the 1930s, a stable industrial base has prevented a rapid decline in Alexandria's economic health. The town today contains the same largely middle-class population that has historically been characteristic of the borough. Many modern residents are retired, but the existing work force continues to be affiliated with local industries and businesses that include the federal government. This includes the largest employer, Owens-Corning Fiberglas, Mead Corporation west of Alexandria, and the prison in Huntingdon. Local merchants run the garage, an industrial-tire service, an appliance store, and similar small businesses.

Current housing consists of nearly all single-family dwellings, although a few have been converted to multiple use since the 1970s. In general the community is marked by very little new commercial or residential growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alexandria represents a well-preserved southwestern Pennsylvania town founded in 1793, that swelled during the early nineteenth century in a prosperous agricultural region along the Juniata River. The surrounding wealth of natural resources contributed to the

[48] F.J. Shollar obituary, Altoona Mirror (16 January, 1960).

[49] Sara L. Keith, "History of the Memorial Alexandria Library and its Donors" (unpublished, 1971), 4.

[50] Harshbarger, 78.

implementation of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, from which the town benefitted from approximately 1830 to 1875. The historic core of Alexandria--which notably has not suffered from the addition of modern, intrusive buildings--is significant for its association with the canal and its integrity. Architectural resources include a distinguished array of residential, commercial, civic, and church buildings from ca. 1804 through the turn of the century that reflect the town's historic vitality as a commercial center along the nation's first major inland east-west transportation route. For this reason the buildings and structures extant in Alexandria should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PATRICK McMANUS HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5393

Location: 710 Main St., Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner: John L. Miller, Jr.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The Patrick McManus House is one of numerous buildings in Alexandria constructed of log, although it is now distinguished by exterior horizontal wood cladding. The house, which may have served for a short time as a tavern during the borough's early days, was occupied by the Piper family for more than 100 years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. or before 1829. The house appears on the Hartslog Heritage Map of 1835; Patrick McManus, presumably the original owner, deeded the "2 story log house" to John Cresswell in 1833. McManus acquired the property in 1829.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The gable-end house has a 60' north frontage on Main Street and extends back 180'. It is bounded on the east by another lot and on the west by the borough boundary.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1829 Deed November 19, 1829, recorded in Volume W1, Page 308.
James Trimble
TO
Patrick McManus.

1833 Deed November 16, 1833, recorded in Sheriffs Deed Book 1, Page 172.
Patrick McManus
TO
Jacob Cresswell.

1833-34 Jacob Cresswell Jr. and his wife deeded the land to John Piper (Harshbarger, notes), although no such document was located. According to the 1904 deed, John Piper bequeathed the lot to his children by will.

1904 Deed June 1, 1904, recorded in Volume Z4, Page 572.
Nicholas Piper, et al.
TO
Julia Piper.

1904-47 House passed by will among members of the Piper family (Julia Piper to Edwin Piper, Edwin Piper to W.C. Piper).

1947 Deed May 1, 1947, recorded in Volume L8, Page 367.
W.C. Piper, et al.
TO
Elma C. Miller.

1980 Deed July 24, 1980, recorded in Volume 157, Page 569.
Elma Miller
TO
John L. Miller, Jr.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. From inspection of the present-day fabric, however, this was probably built as a gable-end, two-story, three-bay log house. The house was originally a side-hall plan having two rooms on east side of the hall; the front rooms were used as a living room/parlor, and the back rooms as a parlor/dining room. The second story consisted of bedrooms.

4. Alterations and additions: The house was most likely constructed in two phases: Construction of the main, three-bay block was followed by the addition of the two west bays, which are about two-thirds the depth of the original. The gable roof and gable-end wall is the full depth, however, creating a recess that originally contained a second-story porch (no longer extant). This is supported by the fenestration pattern on the main facade, whereby a greater amount of unbroken wall space exists on each side of the original three bays.

B. Historical Context: The McManus House was constructed by 1829 by Patrick McManus, one of the early citizens of Alexandria who settled on the "Trimble Addition"--that section of town laid out by Dr. James Trimble in the late 1820s.

John Piper moved into the dwelling, cited in deeds as a two-story log weatherboarded house, approximately five years after its construction. A cabinet-maker and carpenter, he took up residency by 1834 and remained there for seventy years. (Africa, 427). Piper reportedly had a shop next to the log house from at least 1855 until at least 1875, and it was gone by 1900 (Harshbarger, 39, 53, 63).

Born in 1799, Piper was active in the Alexandria community throughout his life, including his election to school director in l861. Like other members of his family, Piper worshipped at Christ's Reformed Church of Alexandria (Africa, 418, 434). Upon Piper's death, sometime after 1875, his children inherited the property.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: One of the earliest buildings erected on the Trimble Addition to the westernmost edge of Alexandria Borough, this was a typical early nineteenth-century, two-story log dwelling.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 43' x 24'.

2. Foundations: Stone and brick.

3. Wall construction: Log with horizontal wood siding.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing log walls.

5. Porches: The entrance porch consists of four wood steps leading to the door with a shoddy, modern wood handrail.

6. Chimneys: A single ridge chimney near the east gable end.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front door is six-paneled wood with a four-light transom; the casing is simple wood. Two wood doors are located off the rear facade.

b. Windows: One-over-one-light and six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash, each covered by a one-over-one-light modern storm. The shutters have been removed.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Side gable with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Plain wood box cornice.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The Patrick McManus House is located on the westernmost edge of Alexandria. Residences lie to the east and north; west is the borough boundary, beyond which is a stream, south lies an expansive yard, beyond

which are planted fields.

2. Outbuildings: Approximately 10' south of the southeast corner of the house is a small woodshed, possibly dating to the 1820s, which could have been moved from another location. A free-standing sheet-metal shed is situated a few feet from the southwest corner of the house.

3. Landscaping, enclosures: A brick path runs the length of the east facade.



Figure 3.6. Southeast facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES CAMERON HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5394

Location: The house is situated on the northwest corner of Main Street and the western borough boundary, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Ron and Merilyn Dively.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This substantial dwelling of modest Federal ornament reflects the typical houses constructed during Alexandria's early canal days: brick structure and a five-bay rectangular plan. Samuel Isenberg, a longtime carpenter, and his family occupied the house for nearly forty years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1833-36. The 1833 deed does not indicate a brick building on the property; the 1836 deed does.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The house faces south on Main Street with a 60' frontage, and extends back 200'. It is bounded on the east by a town lot and on the west by the borough's northwest boundary.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1807 Deed November 14, 1807, recorded in Volume UI, Page 12.
Elizabeth Gemmill, et al.
TO
John Gemmill, Jr.

1833 Deed October 2, 1833, recorded in Volume F2, Page 277.
Rebecca and Amelia Gemmill
TO
James Cameron.

1836 Deed March 23, 1836, recorded in Volume Z1, Page 229.
James Cameron
TO
John Bingham.

1846 Deed February 4, 1846, recorded in Volume F2, Page 278.

John Bingham
TO
Samuel Isenberg and Benjamin Cross.

1850 Deed March 29, 1850, recorded in Volume Y2, Pages 604-05.
Benjamin and Mary Cross
TO
Samuel Isenberg.

1889 Deed February 19, 1889, recorded in Volume Z3, Page 20.
Samuel Isenberg (Joseph Isenberg, executor)
TO
Antis Ellis.

1889-1941 A variety of owners occupied the building as a dwelling.

1941 Deed August 30, 1941, recorded in Volume V7, Page 391.
Martha R. Lockspeiser, et al.
TO
Benjamin F. and Theresa Dively.

1987 Deed October 26, 1987, recorded in Volume 208, Page 351.
Benjamin F. and Marlene K. Dively
TO
Ron L. and Merilyn B. Dively.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The house was originally built with modest Federal styling and five-bays on a center-hall plan. The two front rooms on either side of the hall usually served as a living room/parlor and a dining room, the rear two as a parlor and a kitchen; there is also a cellar fireplace that probably served as a winter kitchen. The second-story space consisted of four bedrooms.

4. Alterations and additions: Several additions have been made to the building over the years. One addition, covered with aluminum or vinyl siding, extends across the rear of the building; a small aluminum/vinyl-sided northeast corner addition has a door and window facing east. A fire ca. 1895 destroyed a stable and severely damaged the dwelling; the repair to the latter may have included altering the pitch of the roof and the window treatments.

B. Historical Context: Both James Cameron and John Bingham were landowners. According to tax records, both men owned houses on the lot that eventually was deeded to Samuel Isenberg and Benjamin Cross. When Cross and Isenberg bought the property from John Bingham, it included two houses: one brick, one frame.

Several men named Samuel Isenberg lived in Porter Township at various times during the nineteenth century, so it is difficult to identify which one was a member of

the Alexandria community. According to the census records of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, the most likely Samuel Isenberg was a carpenter in Alexandria; a Samuel Isenberg was also president of the Alexandria school board in 1856 (Africa, 431). The Isenbergs--"one of the largest families in the county" (Africa, 419)--were one of two families in Alexandria who constituted the bulk of the membership in the German Reformed Church (Isenberg, 21).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The brick dwelling is built in a modest Federal style, with five bays across the double-pile, two-story facade.

2. Condition of the fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main, original block is 34' x 32' (1,088 square feet); the rear addition is 39' x 8' (312 square feet); and the small northeast corner addition is 5' x 12' (60 square feet).

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Seven-course common bond brick with aluminum or vinyl siding on the frame additions.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The front porch is frame on masonry piers, with concrete steps on the east side leading to the wood deck; the wood balustrade has three square supports and Victorian gingerbread. This porch measures 16' x 6'. Another porch on the northeast corner of the wood-frame addition shelters a second door. It is a modern installation.

6. Chimneys: A rebuilt exterior brick chimney is located on the west gable end; a second exterior brick chimney is located on the west end of the rear addition.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front door is a wood three-paneled door with a large, single-light transom. The original side door on the northeast corner of the structure also has a single transom window. A modern door is located under the northeast porch.

b. Windows: The facade features double-hung, one-over-one-light wood

sash. The west gable end is punctuated by four windows on the first and second stories, and two vents at the attic level. There are two windows on the rear facade in the east section of the second story. The east gable end has no windows. These windows were probably added after a ca. turn-of-the-century fire destroyed part of the dwelling.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side gable covered with sheet metal and asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: Wood box cornice with 6" eaves.

C. Interior: The appearance of the interior is unknown except for some details gleaned from Huntingdon County Historic Society Survey forms. According to these studies, the cellar has a basement fireplace that is currently blocked off. The stairway from the cellar to the first floor is low and steep. The wall and ceiling finishes are plaster.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The James Cameron House is located on the westernmost edge of Alexandria, beyond which is a stream. To the south and east are residences; to the southeast is an old brewhouse that is now an apartment building; to the north is an extensive backyard 200' deep.

2. Outbuildings: A frame stable existed from 1900-09 until 1946, and prior to 1893 when it was probably one of several service buildings on the property.



Figure 3.7. Southwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BENJAMIN CROSS HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5395

Location: The Benjamin Cross House faces south on the north side of Main Street approximately 150' from the westernmost edge of Alexandria Borough, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Freda Lloyd.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The Benjamin Cross House is attributed to one of the few known carpenters/builders in nineteenth-century Alexandria. Constructed for himself, the house stands out as a showpiece of Greek Revival detailing, compared to neighboring residences. Architecturally it is vernacular, except for the front-facing gable end that is a highly ornamental composition of four Doric pilasters and a deep, dentiled pediment.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1851. This is implied in the 1858 deed, and the fact that as a carpenter/house builder, Cross would probably have commenced building his own dwelling soon after acquiring the land in 1850. Also, Cross was taxed for "one lot and improvements" valued at $150 in 1851, and a year later the the same property was assessed at $450.

2. Architect: Benjamin Cross built this house for himself, in addition to other Alexandria residences. These include two extant buildings east of this lot.

3. Original and subsequent owners: This lot fronts 60' on the north side of Main Street, extending back therefrom at right angles thereto 200' to a public alley, bounded on the east and west by residences, and recorded as lot No. 19 in the borough plan. It is located in the Trimble Addition to the borough.

The following is a chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1839 Deed September 16, 1839, recorded in Volume H2, Page 57.
Eliza Trimble (administrator for Dr. Trimble)
TO
Thomas Patterson.

1850 Deed September 11, 1850, recorded in Volume H2, Page 58.
Thomas Patterson

TO
Benjamin Cross.

1858 Deed December 1, 1858, recorded in Volume P2, Pages 16-17.
Benjamin and Mary Cross
TO
Ann Cross (Benjamin's mother).

1863 Deed December 8, 1863, recorded in Volume R2, Page 513.
Ann Cross
TO
Mary M. Cross et al.

1894 Deed January 13, 1894, recorded in Volume E4, Page 414.
Mary M. Cross, et al.
TO
Charles Cross.

1900 Deed September 10, 1900, recorded in Volume R4, Page 137.
Charles M. Cross (wife Laura L. and mother, Mary M.)
TO
Henry Neff.

1916 Deed September 21, 1916, recorded in Volume B6, Page 274.
Henry A. Neff
TO
Bertha A. Lloyd.

1948 Deed May 3, 1948, recorded in Volume R8, Page 250.
Bertha A. Lloyd
TO
Freda and George Lloyd.

4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. This is a two-story, frame Greek Revival house built on a variation of the side-hall plan. Although its three-bay south gable end fronts Main Street, entrance is gained through the long, east wall. A porch sheltered the front door of the original rectangular block.

5. Alterations and additions: A one-story porch now wraps around the east and north facades. A small, one-story frame addition measuring 12' x 16' was added to the northwest corner of the north wall sometime during the last forty years, according to the present owner.

B. Historical Context: Benjamin Cross is identified as a 27-year-old carpenter in the 1850 Census records. At least three of several houses attributed to him are still standing.

Cross was active in the Alexandria community: In 1871 he served as a town burgess, and he was an officer of the Odd Fellows Society in 1872 (Africa, 427).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The south facade of this two-story house reflects textbook Greek Revival styling: a deep, pedimented front-gable, and a three-bay facade articulated by four pilasters. In contrast, the east facade includes an irregular and scant grouping of windows. The plan is a variation on the three-bay side-hall arrangement.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main block measures 26' x 30'; the frame addition on the northwest corner, 12' x 16'.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Frame with horizontal siding.

4. Structural system, framing: Frame.

5. Porches: A one-story porch with a hipped roof wraps around the east, and part of the north, facades (7' x 36'). Five Victorian turnposts support the porch, which terminates under the northeastern bay on the east wall. A frame base and lattice-work infill is supported by brick piers. Four central wooden steps access the deck.

6. Chimneys: There are two chimneys: An exterior brick chimney is located near the center of the west wall, and an interior brick chimney (that appears to have been rebuilt) rises from the northeast quarter of the east slope.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The wood front door features two lower panels and decorative six-light glazing above--two large center panels flanked by two smaller panels; a two-light transom is overhead.

b. Windows: The windows on the south facade, second floor, are six-over-six-light double-hung sash; two-over-two-light double-hung sash on the first story. The same glazing arrangement exists on the east and west walls, as well. The east facade is notably irregular, with a single

window in the upper north corner,and two windows in the northern end of the first floor. The first-floor shutters are typically paneled on the bottom, louvered on top; the original metal shutter hardware remains.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Front-facing gable with asphalt shingles and tar paper.

 b. Cornice: The cornice reflects a blending of formal and vernacular Greek Revival styling. The cornice, frieze and plain architrave are supported by four pilasters. The entablature features dentil molding below the pediment.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first-floor room arrangement reflects a modified side-hall plan. The entry hall in the southeast corner leads north under the stairway to the kitchen. The kitchen and a pantry-like room in the northwest corner of the plan occupy the rear portion of the floor; a living room, with a fireplace in the northwest corner, occupy the front section of the plan. Doorways link the hall and kitchen, kitchen and pantry, pantry and addition, and kitchen and dining room. The two windows are located in the east wall of the kitchen.

2. Stairways: The entry stairway is turned with a single landing; it is carpeted.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Benjamin Cross House is located across the steet from the old brewhouse; it is surrounded on the east and west by other residences, and in the rear by an alley.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: A low hedge separates the Cross property from that to the east.

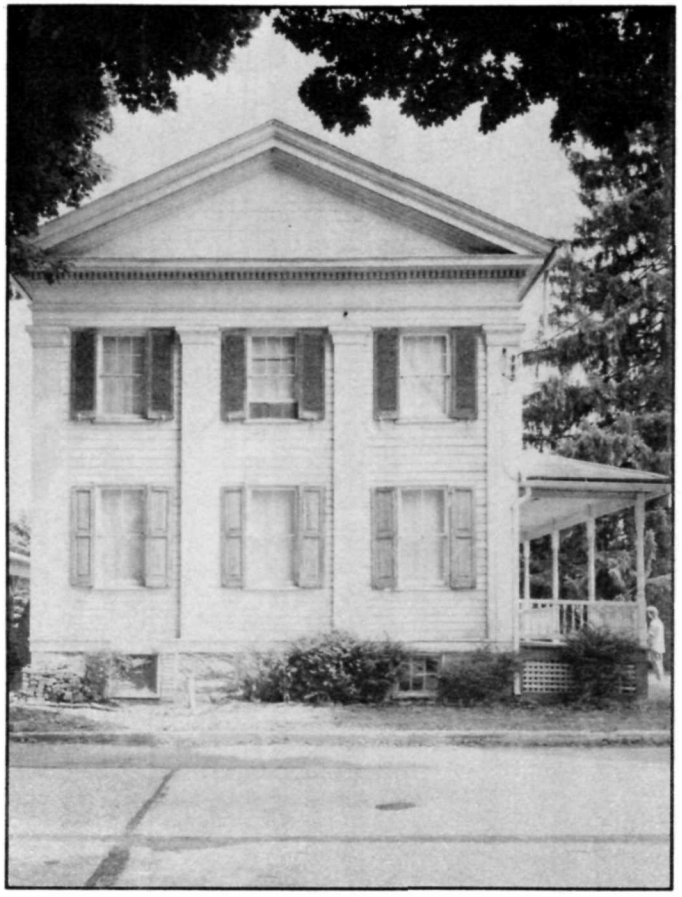


Figure 3.8. HABS No. PA-5395, Benjamin Cross House: southwest/street facade.

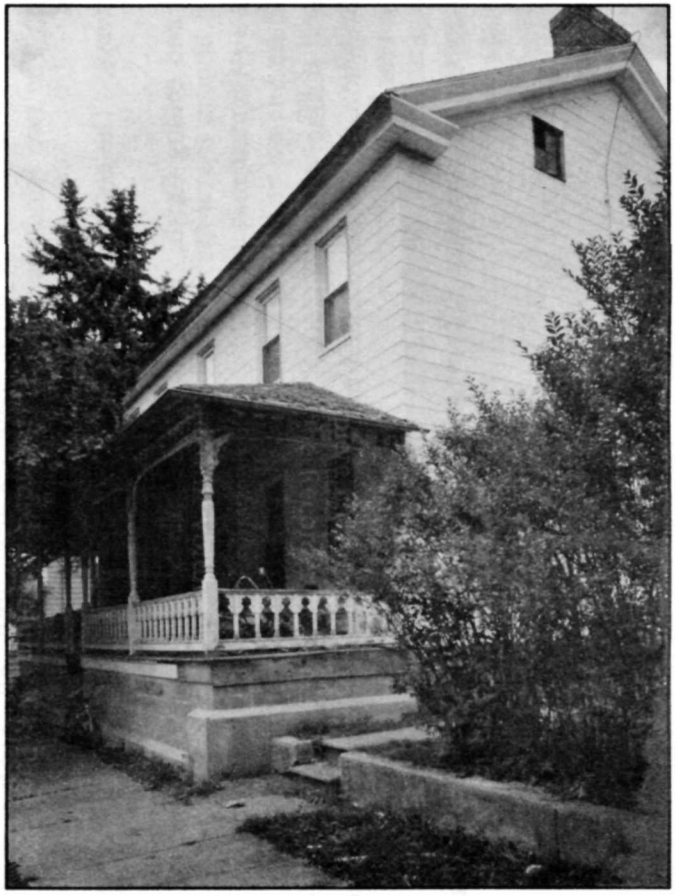


Figure 3.9. HABS No. PA-5396, Alexander Stitt House: south/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDER STITT HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5396

Location: The Alexander Stitt house is located on the north side of Main Street,two lots west of Hartslog Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Marion Neff Baker.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The Alexander Stitt House on Main Street, despite various additions and reworkings over the years, represents an imposing frame dwelling highlighted by Federal ornamental features, it was owned for nearly a half-century during the canal era by a local tanner.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1838-39.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The Alexander Stitt House sits on lot No. 161, which fronts 50' on the north side of Main Street, and extends to the rear 202' to an alley.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1837-38 In 1838 Alexander Stitt was taxed for a lot valued at $150; a year later he was taxed for a house and lot worth $800, according to tax records. Stitt may have bought the lot as early as 1837 (Harshbarger, notes), according to an unspecific 1837 deed.

1883 Deed January 31, 1883, recorded in Volume Z6, Page 185.
Alexander Stitt (John D. Dorris, administrator)
TO
Letitia Harnish.

1926 Deed April 3, 1926, recorded in Volume Z6, Page 199.
Letitia Harnish
TO
Walter K. Harnish.

1929 Deed April 22, 1929, recorded in Volume H7, Page 117.
Walter K. and Eleanor H. Harnish

TO
Letitia H. Neff.

1934 Deed December 3, 1934, recorded in Volume N7, Page 288.
Letitia H. Neff
TO
Edith and Marion Neff.

4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. An early, undated photograph shows a white picket fence surrounding the then-vacant corner lot and the Stitt house. The house was originally a side-hall plan with a three-bay front facade. Federal-style details include the front door on the easternmost bay. The east wall was blind except for two small attic windows. The original chimney was on the east gable end.

The double porch with stairs from the west existed at the time the photograph was taken, as did a front porch with a shed roof and north ell extension (without a porch).

5. Alterations and additions: A modern exterior brick chimney has been added to the east wall, north of the ridge.

The one-story frame addition at the west end, which is listed in tax records as having served as a doctor's office, was probably erected between 1883 and 1906, when Dr. Tobias Harnish may have lived in the house. The Victorian gabled dormers on three sides of the addition support this theory.

B. Historical Context: At age 50, Alexander Stitt is identified in the 1850 census as a tanner. He appears under the same heading in the 1860 census, but in 1870 and 1880 lists he is retired. According to Harshbarger, Stitt's father was a joiner who emmigrated from Ireland. The Stitts and the Lytles operated a tannery on the hill by the canal lock, essentially between their respective lots. This is almost surely the tannery where Alexander worked. The Stitts were one of Alexandria's most prosperous families; he was elected to serve as a town burgess in 1870.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house features late Federal styling in details such as delicate returning eaves, corner boards, and cornice, as well as doorway treatments, against a basically plain frame mass. The Victorian dormers and steeply pitched roof of the later addition indicate ongoing changes to the structure.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main mass is 29' x 34'; the north gable end is 22' wide and extends 64' to the west front of the house. It extends 20' to the inside corner of the ell on the northeast corner of the buiding, and features a porch. The frame addition, southwest corner of the south wall, is 12' x 25'.

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Frame with horizontal siding.

4. Structural system, framing: Frame.

5. Porches: A single-story, dropped-roof porch shelters the center door on the two-story north gable end. A double porch, 7' x 18', wraps around the inside of the ell. There are two wooden pilasters, as well as a simple balustrade and squared-off balusters. The front porch consists of a roofless brick landing surrounded by an iron railing, accessed from the east by four brick treads.

6. Chimneys: An interior brick chimney is located on the west slope of the north ell. There is a second, exterior, brick chimney on the east gable end.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front door features Federal styling: flanking four-light sidelights and a seven-light transom. The decorative crown rises approximately 1' above the door casing, framed by flanking pilasters. A wooden door is located above the second story above the porch roof on the north gable end. The wooden door on the south facade of the west addition is glazed with a single boxed transom. Doors in the southernmost two bays of both stories, in the recessed northeast section of the house, are sheltered by the porch roof.

 b. Windows: Each window bay in the main mass contains one-over-one light sash set on a wooden sill, under a Federal lintel.

 The west addition features the same one-over-one sash, but with far more elaborate hoods: Four-part stepped wood projections with interior rows of dentil-like moldings. The dormer windows are one-over-one-light sash.

 The east wall is blank except for two small two-over-two-light attic windows that flank the chimney. The one-bay north section contains a six-over-six-light sash above the second-story door.

 The shutter hardware is extant, as are the original shutters on the south facade of the main block: they are typically two-paneled wood on the first-floor, louvered on the second.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The main block has a side-gabled roof with shallow returning eaves. The western addition is hipped, with gables on the south, west, and north. The north-ell roof is dropped. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Wooden box cornice.

c. Dormers: A sunrise motif is carved into the western gabled dormer, under the eaves. The south and north gables feature smaller motifs carved onto a smaller projecting triangle of wood. The gable ends of the dormers have returning eaves.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Alexander Stitt House is on Main Street. The bank building is located across the street to the east; two lots east of the house, across Hartslog Street, is the Memorial Public Library. An alley runs along the property's north border; houses border its east and west flanks.

2. Outbuildings: A small frame shed with a metal roof occupies the back lot by the alley.

3. Landscaping, enclosures: A large garden takes up most of the back yard in the north section of the lot.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN PORTER HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5397

Location: The John Porter house is located approximately 90' west of the southwest corner of Bridge and Main streets, on the south side of Main Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: R. Alan Isenberg.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This is a good example of a gable-and-wing plan vernacular dwelling, with Federal styling largely confined to doorway detailing. Constructed on the cusp of the canal era, the house remains little-altered today.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1822-24.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The house is located on lot No. 14 in the original layout of Alexandria; its property includes the area of lot No. 15 adjacent to No. 14 up to the brick dwelling on the corner, then south 200' to the Juniata River.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1824 Deed April 30, 1824, recorded in Volume W1, Page 523.
Conrad Bucher
TO
John and Maria Porter.

1897 Deed December 13, 1897, recorded in Volume N4, Page 353.
J.M. Porter and C.H. Porter (executors for John Porter)
TO
Salome Porter.

1932-73 Various owners occupied the building as a dwelling.

1973 Deed April 23, 1973, recorded in Volume 110, Page 512.
Carl R. and Elvira Bruno
TO
R. Alan and Helen Isenberg.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The five-bay, L-plan brick building features a center-hall interior arrangement. The front rooms were generally used as parlor/living room and dining room. The kitchen was behind the dining room in the wing. In two-story residences such as this, the upstairs generally contained bedrooms. There is a brick cellar floor and fireplace.

4. Alterations and additions: A single-story, shed-roofed frame addition--covered with aluminum siding--is located in the space created by the rear ell, in the southwest corner of the south rear wall.

An aluminum-sided porch extends along the south wall, approximately 30' x 10'. The door into the porch is located in the northeast corner of the east wall; a one-over-one-light aluminum window is directly opposite. On the south wall of the porch there are three small one-over-one-light aluminum windows.

B. Historical Context: A number of similar brick houses from this period are extant in Alexandria--four or five of them on Main Street. This structure exemplifies their modest Federal character.

The owner of this house throughout the canal era, John Porter, was a locally eminent man. He was director of the Alexandria school in 1848, and secretary of the school board from 1857-64. An elder of the Presbyterian Church in its early years, he was also clerk of the Presbyterian sessions for fifty-six years (Africa, 430). One of the most successful of Alexandria's merchants, Porter also served as postmaster in 1830 (Africa, 427). This house also was the birthplace of his son, Thomas Conrad Porter, a moderately well-known botanist whose accomplishments led to a tree and a flower being named after him (Huntingdon County Historical Society).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Front-facing, two-story L-plan refects a typical five-bay arrangement with Federal styling.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main block is an estimated 50' x 40'; the rear south-projecting ell is approximately 20' long.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick, laid in Flemish bond on the main facade; five-course common bond on the south, east and west walls.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: A modest Victorian hipped-roof porch covers the entrance; it is supported by a pair of double turnposts on the northern corners and single attached posts at the facade. The railing, too, is simple wood.

6. Chimneys: The gable ends are distinguished by double interior brick chimneys. On the east end there are three narrow, vertical windows at the attic level, situated between the two flues. A third less-formal chimney that probably vents the kitchen stove protrudes from the intersection of the main block and rear ell.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front door is a single, six-paneled wood door surrounded by a decorated fanlight and flanking three-light sidelights.

 b. Windows: The wood windows on the five-bay facade are six-over-six-light double-hung sash with a thin, projecting wood sill. Three small vertical windows represent the sole openings on the east gable-end wall: a modest Palladian composition of an arched four-light window flanked by two rectangular three-light windows. The exposed gable-end of the ell features a four-light window in the uppermost corner. The west wall of the main mass is blank. The west facade of the ell has two windows on each floor; the south wall has a small, four-light square window; the east wall features a four-over-four-light window on the second story.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: The side-gabled roof has a parapet, from which rise double interior brick chimneys. It is covered with asbestos shingles set in a diamond pattern.

 b. Cornice: Simple wood boxed cornice.

C. Description of Interior: The interior has been unsympathetically remodeled (Huntingdon County Historic Sites Survey).

D. Site:

1. General setting: The John Porter House is located on Main Street near the intersection with Bridge Street, historically a major entry into Alexandria from the south. Behind the lot flows the Juniata River. Residences line the street on either side of this structure, as well as across the street, although originally the building to the west of the house served as a store.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: A gravel driveway aligns the east flank of the house.



Figure 3.10. HABS No. PA-5397: John Porter House, Alexandria, northeast/front facade.



Figure 3.11. HABS No. PA-5398: Dr. James Charlton House, Alexandria, southwest facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. JAMES CHARLTON HOUSE
(Odd Fellows Hall)

HABS No. PA-5398

Location: The Dr. James Charlton House is located on the northeast corner of Main and Bridge streets, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Philip J. Lukish.

Present Use: Multi-family dwelling.

Significance: The Dr. James Charlton House is one of the few structures remaining in Alexandria that was used as a formal meeting hall for the activities of a social organization. The Odd Fellows were an active group during the second half of the nineteenth century, indicated by the building's location at a prominent Main Street intersection. The structure was later converted into the home of William Phillips, a prominent Alexandria merchant.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1831.

2. Original and subsequent owners: Lot No. 29 containing the structure fronts 60' on Main Street, and extends north 200' to an alley; Bridge Street borders on the west; a brick residence and lot borders on the east.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1822 From Lazarus McLain's estate to John McLain.

1831 John McLain's heirs to Dr. James Charlton and his widow, Nancy Charlton; according to the former's will, the property subsequently went to Samuel Charlton (in 1832), although tax records show that Nancy paid the taxes for the brick house on this lot in 1834 (Harshbarger, 19).

1848 Deed November 6, 1848, recorded in Volume G2, Page 297.
Samuel J. Charlton
TO
Dr. Daniel Houtz.

1848 Deed December 11, 1848, recorded in Volume G2, Page 296.
Dr. Daniel Houtz
TO

Nathaniel Watkins, Charles Huey, and Henry Grafuis (Trustees of Sons of Temperance and I.O.O.F.).

1848 Deed December 11, 1848, recorded in Volume Q2, Page 477.
Nathaniel Watkins, Charles Huey, and Henry Grafius (Trustees of Sons of Temperance and I.O.O.F.).
TO
Jacob Baker, et al.

1858 Deed January 10, 1858, recorded in Volume Q2, Page 475.
John W. Given, Robert Laird, and John Whittaker (Trustees of Alexandria Division 134, the Sons of Temperance of Pennsylvania)
TO
Jacob Baker, Jacob Bellman and Dr. Daniel Houtz (Trustees of Hartslog Lodge No. 286, I.O.O.F.).

1863 Deed March 6, 1863, recorded in Volume Q2, Page 478.
Jacob Baker, Jacob Bellman, Joseph Becker (Trustees for Hartslog Lodge No. 28, I.O.O.F.)
TO
William Phillips.

1917 Deed February 17, 1917, recorded in Volume C6, Page 190.
Kepler Beck (Clerk of Orphans Court for William Phillips)
TO
John Phillips.

1917 Deed October 25, 1917, recorded in Volume E6, Page 79.
John Phillips
TO
Samuel Neff.

1943 Deed May 3, 1943, recorded in Volume B8, Page 413.
Ella M. McMahon et al. (F. and R. Lauder, N. Neff and G.I. Phillips)
TO
G.I. Phillips.

1952 Deed March 19, 1952, recorded in Volume B8, Page 413.
G.I. and Frances Phillips
TO
George Irwin and Francis Phillips.

1952-76 Various owners used the building as a dwelling as well as Phillip's Fly and Tackle Company.

1976 Deed September 1, 1976, recorded in Volume 132, Page 695.

Wayne and Madalyn Talasky
TO
Philip J. Lukish.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. According to an 1880-90 photograph, a Victorian porch with double columns and a wooden balustrade was located on the front facade, at least in the southwest corner, and possibly extending the full length of the south facade.

4. Alterations and additions: According to tax records, the north end of the ell has been extended approximately 15'; a carport further increases this extension northward.

B. Historical Context: Harts Log Lodge No. 286, of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), was instituted in Alexandria on January 15, 1848. That November, Dr. Daniel Houtz purchased the lot on the corner of Bridge and Main streets from Samuel Charlton, to serve as the lodge site. Other minor social groups existed at the time, the largest being the Sons of Temperance, with whom the I.O.O.F. shared their lodge until 1858.

A "secret society" of men, the I.O.O.F. numbered ninety members prior to the Civil War. During the War, however, that number fell to sixteen. In 1863 the hall was sold to William Phillips, and within a year the I.O.O.F. relinquished its charter.

In 1872 the lodge was reinstituted, and by 1881 it had twenty-eight members. (Africa, 430). Deeds indicate the lodge may have been relocated to a structure near the corner of Hartslog and Main streets, but no specific site has been determined.

William M. Phillips, of York, Pennsylvania, arrived in Alexandria as a teenager in 1846. By 1862 he was engaged in merchandising in what was known at that time as the Charlton Building (Africa, 427). In 1850 Phillips, age 25, is identified in the census as a grocer. In 1870 the census includes a William Phillips, 44, who was a dry-goods merchant possessing $12,000 in real estate, and $2,000 personal funds; in 1880 he again appears as a dry-goods merchant. In 1866 Phillips erected a brick store with an attached dwelling (Harshbarger, 57). He was a citizen as well as leading merchant in the county, having served on several occasions as school secretary and treasurer, as well as town burgess (Africa, 431).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Federal-style L-plan building is an unusual design, with off-center hall and entry highlighted by an ogee arch, as well as its general large size.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Main block is 60' x 22'; the ell extends north about 38'.

2. Foundation: Rough-cut stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The front door has a concrete landing with three treads approaching from the west; a modern iron balustrade borders the east and south edges. The rear, "interior" facades feature a full, wrapped wood porch with first- and second-story decks, decorated supports, balustrades, an exterior stairway, and bracketed eaves.

6. Chimneys: The main block features interior double brick chimneys on the gable ends; the north wall of the ell's gable includes a single interior brick chimney.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The single wooden front door features a recessed-panel decoration; it is set a deep 7" into the framing, which includes an ornamental transom and flanking sidelights underneath dramatic ogee-arch framing. The two doors on the west wall are also deeply set into their sills and are topped by a one-light transom.

 b. Windows: All windows have been modernized to feature one-over-one-light synthetic sash; originally they were six-over-six-light wood sash. The front and side facades have nineteen such windows; there are several more on the rear facades. Two quarter-circle windows flank the west-end chimney.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side-gabled with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: Wood box cornice beneath rain gutter.

C. Site: The James Charlton House sits on the northeast corner of Main and Bridge streets, historically a busy intersection. Across the street, on the south, is the former store whose owner occupied this structure. Diagonally to the southwest is a brick structure that also served as a store. Across Bridge Street and to the east are residences.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ISRAEL GRAFIUS HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5399

Location: The Israel Grafius House is located at 215 Main St., two lots east of the northeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Esther Kling.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The house is an elegant and well-preserved example of the formal Federal-style dwelling type once common along Main Street. Prominently located in the center of historic Alexandria, its architectural features such as portico, fanlight, and double chimney are indicative of its occupation by prosperous merchant Nicholas Cresswell during the second half of the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORIC INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1826-34 (tax records).

2. Original and subsequent owners: Israel Grafius House is located on lot No. 30 in the original borough plan. It fronts 60' on the south side of Main Street and extends back 200', bordered on the east and west by other town lots with residences.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1826 Deed July 18, 1826, recorded in Volume W1, Page 81.
George and Sophia Hyle
TO
Israel Grafius.

1830 Deed February 3, 1830, recorded in Volume W1, Page 82.
Israel and Elizabeth Grafius
TO
William Moore.

1830 Deed February 3, 1830, recorded in Volume W1, Page 83.
William and Rebecca Moore
TO
Joseph Adams.

1830 Deed February 3, 1830, recorded in Volume W1, Page 84.
Joseph Adams
TO
Henry P. Dorsey.

1846 Deed November 30, 1846, recorded in Volume F2, Page 439.
John P. Dorsey et al. (heirs of Henry Dorsey)
TO
Nicholas Cresswell.

1901 Deed May 9, 1901, recorded in Volume R4, Page 425.
Eliza Barr et al. (heirs of Nicholas Cresswell)
TO
John Phillips.

1902 Deed July 1, 1902, recorded in Volume V4, Page 81.
John Phillips
TO
Dr. John M. Beck; the house was occupied by numerous tenants, even after the property was inherited by Xopher Beck.

1960 Deed May 5, 1960, recorded in Volume 43, Page 337.
Union National Bank and Trust Company of Huntingdon (administrator for Xopher Beck, who died June 22, 1958)
TO
James and Esther Kling.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The five-bay, center-hall plan originally had a slate roof (Huntingdon County Historic Sites Survey).

4. Alterations and Additions: A one-story brick wing was created out of the first-floor rear portion of the gable-end porch at the northeast corner of the building, ca. 1902. This was used as a doctor's office when Dr. John M. Beck resided there. Later, a frame extension was added to the north wall of the brick block. Inside, a bathroom has been installed under the west side of the main stairway; its construction appears flimsy and impermanent.

B. Historical Context: In 1826 this lot sold for $74, whereas in 1830 the property was purchased by Henry Dorsey for $2,200, indicating the construction period. Nicholas Cresswell, the longtime occupant, trained as a potter, but the 1850 census lists him as a merchant, and a decade later he is identified as a farmer; in 1870 he is listed as a retired merchant (Harshbarger, 47). In 1851 he served as president of the school board; a portrait of Cresswell by local painter Jeremy Wilson (ca. 1840s) hangs in the Alexandria library.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This five-bay, Federal-style house is built on a center-hall plan with parapet ends and paired chimneys. A Classical Revival porch located on the front and east sides of the house, as well as other details, reflect a dwelling of noticeable high-style construction.

2. Condition of the fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 40' x 32'.

2. Foundations: Cut stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick, with Flemish-bond coursing on the main facade.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The Classical Revival front porch has a very low slope and shed roof, supported by four Doric columns with fluted shafts; the two front columns are free-standing, the rear two are attached half-columns. The raised porch has a brick base with wood treads and deck.

The east gable end features a one-story porch that has been partially enclosed: similiar features include four full and two half columns; the foundation is composed of brick piers. The hipped roof slope is normal, with wide eaves. The remaining porch area is located in the front of this space, including a wood baluster with simple supports. The rear portion of this 'porch' has been bricked in to create the office room; this is accessed by a south door off the porch.

A full shed-roofed porch extends across the north, rear facade that is supported by five square posts with decorative molding.

6. Chimneys: Double brick gable-end interior chimneys.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The six-panel front door is flanked by three-light sidelights and is topped by a semicircular decorated fanlight. The east gable-end porch accesses the interior via double glazed French doors topped by a single-light transom. The easternmost paneled wood back door has a glazed upper section, topped by a three-light transom.

The door on the south face of the brick addition is a four-paneled wood door with a single-light transom.

b. Windows: The first-story windows are nine-over-six-light double-hung sash with simple wood casing; the second-story windows are six-over-six-light. On the rear facade, the center second-story window is dropped the height of one sash. The brick addition features one-over-one-light and nine-over-six-light double-hung wood sash. All major windows feature highly visible jack-arch lintels; the wood shutters are typically four-paneled on the first floor and louvered on the second. Original shutter hardware is extant.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with parapet ends; asphalt shingles have replaced the original slate covering.

b. Cornice: Four-stepped wooden cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. Cellar: A full cellar.

b. First floor: Two rooms flank each side of the center hall. The southeast corner contains the dining room, the northeast room the kitchen. The west half of the house forms a double parlor, divided by a squared off entryway that fills almost the entirety of this wall, and flanked by two large Ionic columns. Classical molding extends the length of the upper opening.

c. Second floor: The second floor contains four large rooms originally used as bedrooms. The northeast corner space has been converted into a bathroom, according to the present owner, the first one in Alexandria.

2. Stairways: The main, open-welled stairway leads north from the hall up the east wall of the hall, turning south at the landing up to the second floor. This is repeated between the second floor and attic. A closed-well stairway runs from the northwest section of the upstairs bathroom, south along the west wall, to turn into the southwest corner of the kitchen. A closed-well stairway runs between the kitchen and cellar.

3. Flooring: Wood, partially covered with linoleum.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster and wallpaper.

5. Doorways and doors: The door frames have bull's-eye moldings in the squared corners. Doors on the first floor are six-paneled wood; the upstairs doors may

be seven-paneled.

6. Decorative features: The double-parlor opening is highly decorated with columns and moldings. There are fireplaces in each room; all feature Classical moldings except for the one in the southwest parlor, which is a marbled Victorian design.

D. Site: The Israel Grafius house is located near the east end of Main Street's north side, very close to the bridge that crosses the Juniata River. Across the street to the west, on the southeast corner, is a large brick residence that for many years served as a store. Directly across the street is a bar. A large yard is on the west, while another building lies only 1-1/2' from the west wall of the house.



Figure 3.12. Southwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN CRESSWELL HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5400

Location: Situated 120' east from the southeast corner of High and Main streets, in the southeasternmost corner of town, fronting Main Street in Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Robert Eugene Walters.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The John Cresswell House is one of the few surviving buildings from the pre-canal period. Also one of the few only remaining stone buildings in the borough--and one of the earliest--it was conscientiously restored for the first time in 1976. Cresswell, a merchant and contractor, occupied the house for nearly fifty years, during which time the canal was built and in use.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1816.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The John Cresswell house lies south of Main Street on lot Nos. 1, 2, and 38-1/2' of lot No. 3, fronting Main Street and extending approximately 200' to the Juniata River on the south.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1815 Deed November 24, 1815, recorded in Volume P1, Page 20.
Thomas Rees
TO
John Cresswell.

1864 Deed April 2, 1864, recorded in Volume S2, Page 310.
John Cresswell
TO
Mary Ann Garland.

1897 Deed November 16, 1897, recorded in Volume N4, Pages 164-67.
David Garland et al. (Moses Garland's heirs) and Samuel Isenberg
TO
Mahlon M. Garland.

1900-76 Two owners occupied the structure as a dwelling.

1976 Deed December 22, 1976, recorded in Volume 134, Page 739.
Harry and Jewel Frazer
TO
Robert E. Walters.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The house is a side-hall plan, two rooms deep. A one-story stone ell with gable roof and brick chimney was constructed at or about the same time as the main block. The two upstairs rooms were probably bedrooms. The large, front room downstairs was probably the living room/parlor; the rear room probably the dining room/hall; and the ell, the kitchen.

4. Alterations and additions: The house was probably unaltered until 1976 when its restoration was undertaken to permit rehabitation. This process was well-documented by the owner. The interior walls were moved inward approximately 1' to accommodate insulation; the original walls were plaster on stone. Existing baseboards and chair rails were replaced. The exterior, originally stuccoed, is now bare stone.

The rear porch fell off and was rebuilt about 1976, in a design that approximates its original appearance.

B. Historical Context: Stone houses were common in early-nineteenth century Pennsylvania, but not in Alexandria. The Cresswell House was built in the easternmost corner of the borough, north of the Juniata River and south of the canal path. One other residence occupied a lot to the west, perhaps the only other structure in the area; although a tannery may have stood across Main Street, northeast of Cresswell's house, it was gone by 1819.

Chairmaker Patrick Hayes was an apprentice to John Cresswell, the original building owner; Hayes operated on his own from 1815 to about 1830, prior to other mercantile and civic undertakings that include justice of the peace, county commissioner, canal and bridge contracter, and general merchant.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a three-bay Federal-style structure constructed of stone on a side-hall plan.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 22' x 35,' including the one-story ell.

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Double stone with rubble-stone filling.

4. Structural system, framing: The double walls have rubble-stone filling up to the gable and diminish in width from bottom to top. (Interview with the current owner who conducted the restoration.) The wall is 4' thick at the base, 3' at the basement, 2-1/2' at the first floor, 2' at the second floor, and a single-wall width at the gable. The walls recede at each floor to support the log floor joists. Thus, the rooms at the top of the building are larger than those at the bottom.

5. Porches: The one-story rear ell that faces west has an extended, shed-roofed frame porch under the secondary roof that wraps around the rear facade of the dwelling.

6. Chimneys: There are two interior gable-end brick chimneys; one on the east gable, the other on the ell's south gable end.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway is inset about 1-1/2' and the door is a new wood panel; the boxing is original.

 b. Windows: The windows are new, with twelve-over-eight-light sash on the first floor, six-over-six-light on the second story. Interior boxing is about 1'.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Gable with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: Simple boxed frame cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

 a. Cellar: The cellar, a single large room extending the length and bredth of the house, has a dirt floor.

 b. First floor: The entrance hall is about 5' wide and extends the full depth of the main block. The space in the northeast corner is the living room. Its fireplace features the original wood surround with modest and shallow carved Federal ornament. A door leads from this room south into the dining room, which is also accessible through the hallway. The dining room also has a fireplace, though its mantel may not be original. Beyond the dining room is the kitchen ell. A door under the main

stairway leads to the cellar stairway.

2. Stairways: The main stairway in the entrance hall is open-welled and runs along the west wall to a landing, from which the stairway turns east, then north up to the second level. It is made of cherry.

3. Flooring: The interior woodwork is predominantly cherry. The floor boards, of unequal widths running on a north-south axis, may also be cherry.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

D. Site:

1. General setting: Close to the southeastern border of Alexandria and fronting on Main Street, the house is bordered by the river to the south, an appliance shop on the east, and by residences on the west and north. The canal, and later the railroad, crossed Main Street just east of the Cresswell property.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: The property includes a large lawn east of the house.



Figure 3.13. Northeast/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. DANIEL HOUTZ HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5401

Location: The house is situated on three lots west of Hartslog Street, on the south side of Main Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: William Swigart.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This two-story brick residence is significant for its ownership by two important figures in Alexandria's history: state Senator Harry McAteer, a lawyer who introduced the first telephone line to Alexandria, and Dr. Daniel Houtz, a physician and community leader who accumulated his wealth from timber in Centre County. The formal, Federal-style residence is closely associated with the nearby utilitarian building, the Dr. Houtz Office.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1845.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The lot fronts the south side of Main Street for 100', and extends back 200' to an alley, being the northern half of the original lot No. 165, the entire lot No. 166, and the south 10' of lot No. 167.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1835 Dr. James Trimble owned the land with no buildings (Harshbarger, 19).

1840 Dr. Daniel Houtz owned the property (Harshbarger, "Historic Alexandria")

1872 Deed July 8, 1872, recorded in Will Book 7, Page 329.
Daniel Houtz
TO
Clara Houtz McAteer (Daniel's daughter)

1951 Deed February 28, 1951, recorded in Volume O8, Pages 158-59.
Grange Trust Co. (trustee for Clara McAteer)
TO
William Swigart.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been

located; floor plans drawn at the request of William Swigart are in his possession. The house was originally a five-bay, Federal-style with a center hall: two rooms symmetrically placed on the east side, and a large front room on the west that may have extended the full depth of the house. The kitchen was first in the cellar, where traces of it still remain. The second floor contained bedrooms.

4. Alterations and additions: Two photographs of the building, as well as insurance records, in the possession of William Swigart indicate that a number of additions and alterations have been made to the structure. Most occurred in 1876, a year after the estate was settled. The renovation may have been planned for a few years prior to this, however, because additional insurance was acquired in 1871.

In August 1888 "some addition has been made" to Clara McAteer's house, according to the insurance policy. This included a frame ell, and a porch that extended along the east and rear south walls. The ell burned in February 1934, according to the present owner. The door shown in the northeast corner of the east wall in a late-1800s photograph was remodeled into a window soon after, and a bay window was constructed in the center of the east wall to enhance the interior parlor space in the southeast corner of the house. This window was allegedly designed for Dorthea Houtz McAteer, the granddaughter of Daniel Houtz, who lived in the house until her death in 1950; her mother, Clara, owned the property, however.

The fireplace mantels in the living room and the parlor were installed as part of the 1888 remodeling; the mantel in the dining room is original. The china cabinet with its glazed door, in the southeast corner of the living room, is original, as is the one directly above in the master bedroom. The dining room was the largest room in the house before the 1934 fire, extending the length of the structure's west side. It was sectioned off to accommodate a kitchen in the southwest corner of the house after the fire, according to Swigart.

In the original scheme, the kitchen was in the cellar--typical of the 1840s--where it remained until the 1888 renovation when moved to the frame ell. The fountain, which is now behind the house, was originally on the west side, and its relocation was probably part of the same renovation. At the same time, McAteer changed the entrance from a single door to a double door. Swigart returned the front entry to a one-door design after 1950.

The house was unpainted until at least 1895, according to a photograph in the owner's possession.

B. Historical Context: Dr. Daniel Houtz (1826-73) promoted the Alexandria community as well as serving as local physician. He owned extensive acreage rich in coal deposits and timber, and after the railroad passed through his Centre County property--which occurred largely through Houtz's influence--he named the community that developed into Houtzdale.

Houtz arrived in Alexandria in 1826 and married Susan Bucher, daughter of Conrad Bucher, one of the wealthiest merchants in Alexandria. After buying some of

the land from Dr. Trimble, he built the house on lot No. 166 as a home for his new wife. Houtz opened Alexandria's first apothecary in 1828, perhaps inspired by his father-in-law (Harshbarger, 27).

Dr. Houtz's investments and civic involvements were widespread. He owned an interest in a sawmill on Clearfield Creek and land in Centre County, where he helped develop the railroad line from Moshannon to Houtzdale. In 1835 he was elected to the one-year position of school director; and in 1846 was appointed to head the group charged with building a new school house. In 1857 and 1859 Houtz was a town burgess, interrupting his time in that position in 1858 to serve as a state representative. A member of the Presbyterian Church and one of its trustees for many years, Houtz died in 1873 and is buried in the Presbyterian cemetery (Africa, 428-30). A stone in the cemetery on which he is supposed to have often sat now bears his initials.

The Houtz estate included a spring about 150 yards north of the house and one of a number of private sewage lines to the river prior to the arrival of municipal water in Alexandria. At one time a water line also went into the cellar where there was a butter-cooling trough, according to Swigart.

H.J. McAteer, who married Houtz's daughter and essentially became the second owner of the house, was born in 1838 in West Township. He worked ten years for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company (he's listed as a conductor as late as the 1870 census) before being elected to the state legislature in 1869, and re-elected in 1870. In 1873 he became involved in the coal business in Clearfield County, and is listed in the 1880 census as a coal operator.

Like his father-in-law, McAteer was a member of the Presbyterian Church and served as deacon in 1881 (Africa, 426). Apparently also trained as a lawyer, McAteer is thought to have used the second building on this estate as his office (Interview with William Swigart). In 1882 McAteer asked permission of the insurance company to install a telephone line into the house, and in doing so introduced Alexander Graham Bell's invention to Alexandria (insurance-policy documentation).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The brick house is Federal-style, two stories, with a five-bay facade.

2. Condition of the fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 45' x 36'.

2. Foundations: Rough-cut stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish-bond coursing.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The partial, frame front porch is 27' x 9', centered across the middle three bays of the five-bay facade. The hipped roof features a cross-gable with decorative woodwork. Two wood steps lead to the wood deck; the porch balustrade features Victorian spindlework.

6. Chimneys: There are four interior gable-end brick chimneys.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The six-panel wood front door features a seven-light transom, and three-light sidelights.

 b. Windows: The windows on the first story are one-over-one-light double-hung sash, each flanked by three-panel shutters. The second-story windows are six-over-six-light sash with louvered shutters. The west and east sides feature attic windows. There is a header arch over the second-story window in the northwest corner of the west wall, but not over the one on the southwest corner. All feature brick jack-arch lintels.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side gable with asbestos shingles.

 b. Cornice: The frame cornice is plain and wide.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

 a. First floor: Beyond the front door is the hall. An open-welled stairway leads south to a landing. The back door to the west of the stairway originally opened onto the back porch; it is now a walk-in closet.

 The northeast space is the living room; the southeast room, the parlor/study; the northwest corner contains the dining room; and the southwest room contains the kitchen.

 b. Second floor: The second floor contains four large rooms in each corner; the north-south hall axis is terminated at the former end by a bathroom, on the latter by the main stairs. A shorter, perpendicular hallway contains a bathroom and secondary stairs that lead to the attic. All four main spaces were originally devoted to bedrooms.

 At present the southwest corner is a workroom; the northwest corner contains a bedroom; the northeast corner is the master bedroom; and the southwest corner contains a study. The master bedroom has a built-in cabinet with glazed doors, though plainer than the one in the

living room. The northwest bedroom retains an original, shallow closet.

2. Stairways: The main stair is an open well with two landings and twenty-three treads leading south, west, and finally north. The attic access is a straight-run stairway of nine treads.

3. Flooring: Wood.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: The original doorways are wood with surrounds about 6" wide and bulls'-eye corner blocks.

6. Decorative features: In the corners of the living room and the master bedroom there are built-in china closets of fairly elaborate woodwork; the plain glazed doors are intact.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Dr. Daniel Houtz House is located near the center of Main Street, surrounded by residences on the north, east, and west sides, and by fields on the south. The residences in this area are slightly grander than those near the ends of Main Street. See DR. DANIEL HOUTZ OFFICE.

3. Landscaping, enclosures: None, although a white-picket fence surrounded the front yard in the late-nineteenth century.



Figure 3.14. Northeast/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. DANIEL HOUTZ OFFICE

HABS No. PA-5402

Location: The office is located three lots west of Hartslog Street, on the south side of Main Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: William Swigart.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This one-and-a-half story building is significant for its ownership by two important figures in Alexandria's history: state Senator Harry McAteer, a lawyer who introduced the first telephone line to Alexandria, and Dr. Daniel Houtz, a physician and community leader who accumulated his wealth from timber harvesting in Centre County. The modest and utilitarian building is closely associated with the nearby residence, the Daniel Houtz House.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1845.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The lot fronts 100' on the south side of Main Street and extends back 200' to an alley, being the northern half of the original lot No. 165, the entire lot No. 166, and the southern 10' of lot No. 167.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1835 Dr. James Trimble owned the property with no buildings.

1840 Dr. Daniel Houtz owned the property, according to Jean Harshbarger.

1872 Deed July 8, 1872, recorded in Will Book 7, Page 329.
Daniel Houtz
TO
Clara Houtz McAteer.

1951 Deed February 28, 1951, recorded in Volume O8, Pages 158-59.
Grange Trust Co. (trustee) for Clara McAteer
TO
William Swigart.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The building, constructed as an office, was probably one large room

with some division between the examining room and the waiting area, or two separate rooms, one in the front section, and one in the back.

4. Alterations and additions: There have been no major alterations or additions. Of interest, however, is the fact that the facade/roof design resembles that of the Presbyterian Church after its 1906 renovation.

B. Historical Context: See DR. DANIEL HOUTZ HOUSE.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a rectangular, utilitarian building with no outstanding architectural character other than the parapet of the primary facade, which approximates a mission-style roof line.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 15' x 20'.

2. Foundation: Cut stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The front porch is composed of a modern metal shed roof supported by two metal poles. Three concrete steps lead up to the front door. The porch on the west facade has four concrete steps, a metal shed roof, and no railing.

6. Chimneys: There is one undecorated chimney on the roof ridge near the south gable end.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are two doors; both are glazed, wood doors with two lower panels. The front door is located on the west side of the two-bay facade. The side door is located on the southwest corner of the west wall.

b. Windows: A transom tops the front window, a double-hung one-over-one-light wood sash. The upper half of the facade features three-over-

three-light window.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The structure has a front-gabled roof with mission-style parapet on the main facade; it is covered with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: The corbeled cornice incorporates three brick courses.

D. Site: The Dr. Daniel Houtz Office is located near the center of Main Street, surrounded by residences on the north, east, and west sides, and by fields on the south. Three lots to the east is the bank building. The residences in this area are slightly grander than those elsewhere on Main Street.



Figure 3.15. Northwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FRANCIS CONNOR HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5403

Location: The building is located on the corner of Shelton Avenue and the eastern edge of the southeastern corner of the town square, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Raymond and Pamela Tononi.

Present Use: Multi-family dwelling.

Significance: The Francis Connor House exemplifies the type of large residential structures that were built around the town square, several of which are extant. It is also a good example of the board and batten cladding applied to Alexandria's nineteenth-century buildings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1856. Mary Gemmill owned a house on this site in 1826, according to tax records. However, when Francis Conner acquired the land, it is likely that he enlarged it or built anew on the lot in 1856, based on the tax assessment, which indicates an increase in the land's value from $300 in 1855 to $600 the next year.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The Francis Conner House sits on lot No. 51, located on the south side of Shelton Avenue. The property fronts 60' of Shelton Avenue on the north, and extends back 200'. The northwest corner of the lot borders the diamond, or town square, while the southwest corner borders another town lot. An alley borders the south and another town lot borders the east side.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1823 Deed November 12, 1823, recorded in Volume W1, Page 577.
John and Elizabeth Brown
TO
Mary Gemmill.

1830 Deed December 22, 1830, recorded in Volume W1, Page 578.
Mary Gemmill
TO
James Rainey.

1834 The 1855 deed history notes that in 1834 a Mr. Rainey deeded the property to John Scott.

1855 Deed March 16, 1855, recorded in Volume L2, Page 254.
John and George Scott (sons, executors for John Scott)
TO
Francis Connor.

1873 Deed May, 26, 1873 recorded in Volume E3, Page 384.
Francis Connor
TO
Mary Bauslaugh.

1880 Deed February 16, 1880, recorded in Volume L3, Page 320.
David Miller and Calvin Bauslaugh (administrators for Mary Bauslaugh)
TO
Henrietta Miller.

1904 Deed June 13, 1904, recorded in Volume Z4, Page 200.
Henrietta and David Miller
TO
J. Calvin Mierley.

1976 Will recorded in Will Book 26, Page 182.
J. Calvin Mierley
TO
Helen Mierley (wife).

1983 Deed December 20, 1983, recorded in Volume 174, Page 598.
Helen Mierley
TO
Raymond and Pamela Tononi.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The seven-bay, side-facing L-plan structure is frame with board-and-batten and horizontal siding, on the south and north facades, respectively. An (early) undated photograph indicates that at one time the house had two interior brick chimneys, and a five-bay west facade with a frame porch over the central door; it also featured five or six steps leading north up to the porch, shutters, and what appears to be two-over-two-light sash. Three cellar windows are present on this west wall, one under the northernmost bay; the other two are uncentered under the two southernmost bays.

4. Alterations and additions: The west end of the building has horizontal frame siding and was possibly added ca. 1906 (Huntingdon County Historic Sites Survey form). The assumption that the two east bays of the main block are the

added portion is supported by two visual factors: foremost, the use of horizontal weatherboard siding, which was commonly used later than the 1860-70s vertical board and batten that covers the stacked-plank walls used for the other five bays; and, the irregular spacing between these two areas of the building on the rear facade, whereby the rhythm of the windows is disrupted.

A small shed-like, one-story building is attached to the south end of the ell, with a hipped roof and board and batten siding. This is probably contemporary with the rest of the board and batten section of the house.

A narrow, exterior brick chimney has been installed between the two northernmost bays on the west wall.

B. Historical Context: In the early nineteenth century, private landowners often initiated the development of town grids. In Pennsylvania, the plans often included open squares or "diamonds," at a primary intersection, designed for practical uses such as parking wagons and market areas, particularly if a tavern or inn was nearby. These diamonds also acted as centers of social activity, and thus the land around them was considered prime real estate--sometimes fetching more money than even the houses along the Main Street (Stotz, 29). In Alexandria, the lots around the diamond were the most expensive in town. For this reason it is supposed that some of the wealthiest citizens chose to live on them; although in Alexandria, this is not necessarily borne out.

Francis Connor, who occupied the house from 1855-73, is identified in the 1860 census as a carman--possibly referring to a position with the railroad. As of two years earlier, he also owned an interest in the Alexandria brewery (Harshbarger, notes).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a large, vernacular two-story building distinguished by two wood siding materials and an apparent series of additions and alterations.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior: This structure is a two-story L-plan with seven bays on the long facade and five bays on the ell. It features a board and batten exterior finish atop a stacked plank diagonal lath, combined with the addition of horizontal weatherboard.

The house has a number of unusual features: There are six fireplaces, the west-end walls are constructed of stacked plank (Harshbarger, notes), and the windows operate on a lever system (Huntingdon County Historic Sites Survey form). Two front doors are set asymmetrically into the north facade.

1. Overall dimensions: The main block is 54' x 41'.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Board and batten siding on the west end of the house; horizontal weatherboard siding on the east end.

4. Structural system, framing: Frame and stacked plank.

5. Porches: The house features three porches, none of which are completely original. A partial, one-story off-center porch (28' x 8') protects four openings on the main (north) facade, including two doors; its hipped roof with deep moulded cornice is supported by four plain, wood Doric columns on a raised deck. The side porch (20' x 6') is nearly identical, although it is raised higher and is centered over only three bays, including one door; it also features a simple balustrade that retains a mismatch of turned and infill spindles. A wrapped porch along the rear south and east facades is raised and has a shed roof; it is considerably less formal than the other two, with informal wood supports and horizontal rails.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys: a ridge chimney in the main block, between the fifth and sixth bay, and a new exterior chimney on the west wall.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: There are at least four doors, most of which appear to be at least somewhat modernized.

 b. Windows: All windows are two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: The raked wood cornice is very deep.

D. Site: The house stands on the southeast corner of the town's diamond--once a center of Alexandria activity, but now simply a grassy open space. It is surrounded by residential lots to the east and across Shelton Avenue on the north; to the south, beyond the large and sheltered back yard, lies an alley and, directly beyond that, the old canal embankment.





Figure 3.16. Southeast/front and side facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SOLOMON BAKER HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5404

Location: The Solomon Baker house is located on the north side of Shelton Avenue, three lots west of High Street in Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Charles Brenneman.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: The house that Solomon Baker erected about mid-century and occupied for a decade represents a large residence with late-Federal characteristics overshadowed by Victorian elements that were added late in the century--a common pattern of architectural amalgamation as the canal activities of this period attracted money and taste to Alexandria.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1846. According to 1846 tax records, Solomon Baker was taxed for a $600 "new house," which was not in records of the previous year.

2. Original and subsequent owners: Lot Nos. 74 and 75 in the original plan for Alexandria front 120' on the south side of Shelton Avenue, and extend north 200' to an alley.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1843 Deed March 27, 1843, recorded in Volume F2, Page 310.
Thomas B. and Margaret Ann Patterson
TO
Solomon Baker.

1853 Deed August 16, 1853, recorded in Volume I2, Page 470.
William Zeigler, Sheriff
TO
Mary Neff.

1889 Deed January 1889, recorded in Volume W3, Page 292.
Heirs of Mary Neff
TO
Samuel Hatfield.

1921 Deed December 3, 1921, recorded in Volume P6, Page 544.

Samuel Hatfield Jr. (executor for Samuel Hatfield Sr.)
TO
Mary Stryker (Hatfield Sr.'s daughter).

1958 Deed December 17, 1958, recorded in Volume 36, Page 151.
Mabel S. and Chalmers Brumbaugh; Mary S. and Henry Conner; Annie Black; Ella S. Phillips, guardian of Eliabeth Neff Stryker (incompetent)
TO
Charles D. and Betty Brenneman.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. Built as a two-story, five-bay residence, the interior was probably arranged on a center-hall plan.

4. Alterations and additions: Stained-glass windows around the front door and over the main stairwell on the north wall were probably added in the late 1800s when many Alexandria houses were updated using Victorian details. The three-sided bay window on the south facade and heavily bracketed front porch were also added at this time, based on their design.

A wood porch has been recently added to the second floor, rear facade, supported by cinder-block piers, at least at the northeast corner. A cinder-block chimney on the northeast gable slope of the east wall is also new.

B. Historical Context: In 1847 Jacob Baker sued Samuel Baker for work and material on a two-story frame dwelling, valued at $561; Jacob Baker had a mechanic's lien on the property. When Mary Neff gained title to the property in the 1880s, according to a local historian, a relative of hers built a Victorian house on the adjacent lot, which probably accounts for the addition of Victorian details to that structure (Harshbarger, interview).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a five-bay, Federal-style structure that has been updated through the addition of Victorian elements.

2. Condition of the fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main block is approximately 40' x 25'; the single-story addition, 12' x 20'.

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Wood covered with synthetic or aluminum siding.

4. Structural system, framing: Frame.

5. Porches: A one-story, partial front porch shelters the central three bays; the hipped roof is supported by six Victorian turnposts with extravagant brackets.

6. Chimneys: One interior gable-end chimney remains on the east end; its mate on the west gable fell off, according to the Huntingdon County Historic Society survey form.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The wood front door features a three-light stained-glass transom and four-light flanking sidelights.

 b. Windows: The first- and second-story windows are a mix of six-over-six-light and one-over-one-light wood sash; the latter replacing the former. The only variation from this scheme are the six-light attic windows and the tall, round-topped windows in the Victorian bay, two-over-two-light and one-over-one-light sash.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side-gabled covered with asbestos shingles.

 b. Cornice: Wood box cornice.

C. Site: The Solomon Baker House is situated in a residential neighborhood in the northeast end of town. It is bounded on the rear by a public alley.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THOMPSON CARRIAGE HOUSE
(Kilmarnock Hall Carriage House)

HABS No. PA-5405

Location: Lot No. 108, west of Church Street between an alley and the canal, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: Kilmarnock Hall, of which only this carriage house remains, was the grand summer residence of William Thompson (1823-1921), a philanthropic Alexandrian who made a fortune in the western Pennsylvania oil fields.

Description: Two-story frame structure with primary gable roof and two cross gables with exaggerated eaves supported by decorated brackets; ornament is provided by stylized, false half-timbering. The main facade features two single-door entries and a second-story paneled door situated like an implied hay hood. An assortment of irregular window sash include sixteen-over-two-light, six-over-six-light, and twelve-light decorated atop two-over-two-light sash; a decorated semicircular opening sits above the second-story door.

History: Kilmarnock Hall was built by the Reverend James Thompson, named after the county in Ireland from which his family emigrated. Thompson owned it until 1831; from 1831 until 1910 it belonged to his heirs, including William Thompson, who lived there sporadically during most of his life. Sometime after 1875 the younger Thompson remodeled the house and used it as a summer residence (Harshbarger, 75). William E. Hoffman then acquired the property, and he deeded it to the present owner. According to him, a carriage house existed in the north section of this present lot during the mid-nineteenth century canal operation, which served as a rest stop for canal horses and mules. Due to its architectural styling, however, this is probably a new or remodeled building, attributable to Thompson after his return. A 1979 fire destroyed the accompanying house.

Sources: Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.

Alexandria Borough tax records, 1859 to 1873, Huntingdon County Historical Society and Huntingdon County Courthouse.

Harshbarger, Jean P., Nancy R. Taylor, Sara H. Zabriskie, and F.R. Zabriskie. Hartslog Heritage. State College, Pennsylvania: K-B Offset Printing, Inc., 1975; p. 75.

Huntingdon County Deed Books and Probate Records, Huntingdon County Courthouse, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Historian: Karen Genskow, NPS Project Historian, August 1988.



Figure 3.17. HABS No. PA-5405: Thompson Carriage House, northeast/front facade.

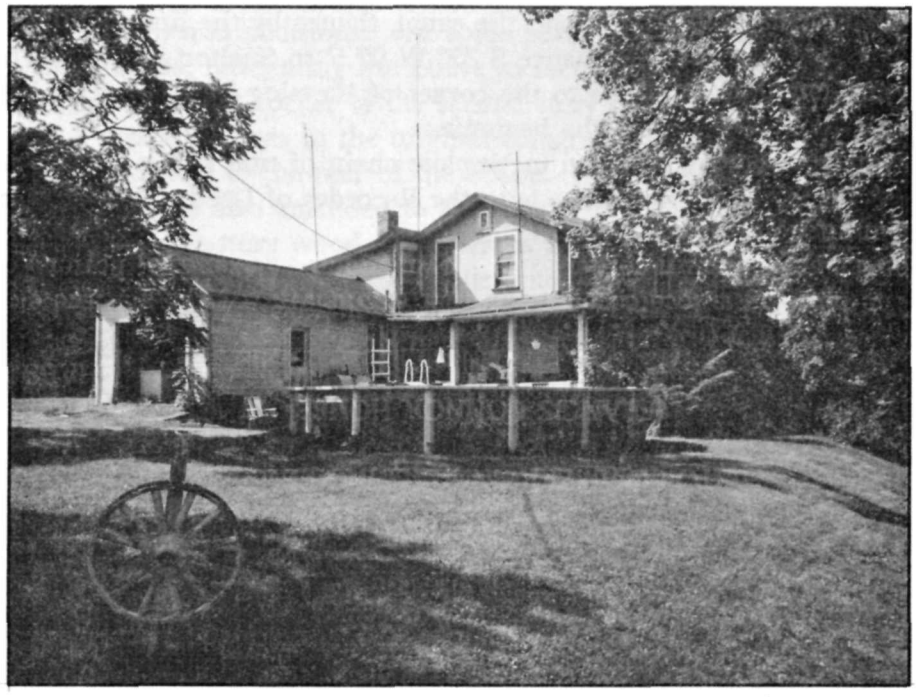


Figure 3.18. HABS No. PA-5406: Pennsylvania Canal Lockkeeper's House, northwest-northeast facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL LOCKKEEPER'S HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5406

Location: On the southeast corner of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue, Alexandria, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Warren and Rebecca Itinger.

Present Use: Single-family dwelling.

Significance: This structure was the only lockkeeper's house constructed in Alexandria, where the lockkeeper was responsible for two locks, No. 49 and No. 50, which flanked the dwelling. It is also the only building constructed at an angle to the regular street grid, to accommodate the canal path, which it originally fronted. As such, it is the single-most important building in the context of canal maintenance in Alexandria.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1832.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The house is located on lot No. 20, the corner of Hartslog Street and the canal, thence by the line formerly of the canal N 68° W 60' to a post, thence S 32° W 97.5' to Shelton Avenue. Thence S 68° E 60' by Shelton Avenue to the corner of Hartslog Street, and by Hartslog Street N 32° E 97.5' to the beginning.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1835 Deed December 30, 1835, recorded in Volume Y1, Page 321.
Robert McClelland
TO
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1875 Deed December 31, 1875, recorded in Volume X3, Page 402.
Pennsylvania Canal Company
TO
William P. Robison.

1876 Deed May 19, 1876, recorded in Volume X3, Page 404.
William P. Robison
TO
John H. Robinson.

1890 Deed September 15, 1890, recorded in Volume Y3, Page 230.
John H. Robinson
TO
William M. Phillips.

1903 Deed June 24, 1903, recorded in Volume W4, Page 232.
William M. Phillips
TO
George A. Trimmer.

1909-50 The building was occupied by various owners as a dwelling.

1950 Deed April 25, 1950, recorded in Volume X8, Page 33.
Walter C. Feagley
TO
Warren and Rebecca Itinger.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. Old photographs and present condition indicate that the house was originally two stories tall with a front-facing gable; the front door was set in the western corner of the south facade, looking south and fronting the canal. The interior may have been a side-hall plan, two rooms deep.

4. Alterations and additions: At some point the front door was installed in the west facade, reorienting the house to face Hartslog Street. Another door stands in the northeast corner of the second story on the gable end, facing northeast. This probably dates to the original construction and accessed a porch that was once attached to the rear of the house. A two-story shed addition with a brick chimney was also amended to the southeast corner of the building.

A one-story wood porch wraps around the south, west, and north facades. A frame porch with a Victorian balustrade once extended across the front facade, depicted in an early, undated photograph as a partial, dropped or extended roof on the south facade.

A one-story wood garage measuring 27' x 13' has been added to the northeast corner of the building. An above-ground swimming pool is situated south of the house.

Remnants of a stone foundation exist on the northeast corner of the building, which extend east approximately 10'. A late-nineteenth century photograph reveals a ridge chimney that no longer exists.

B. Historical Context: The house was undoubtedly erected by the Pennsylvania Canal Company after it obtained deed to the land in 1835, gable-front oriented to accommodate the canal's diagonal alignment through Alexandria. No other building in town violates the rectangular town grid. The occupant of this company-owned, rent-free house was responsible for two locks, No. 49 and No. 50, one on either side of Hartslog Street north of the alley between First and Second streets.

Census records identify some of the resident locktenders. In 1850 it was W. Mealy, 53; a decade later a young man aged 17, Thomas Madow, tended the locks. In 1870 the last locktender listed is Perry Robinson, 58, who is most likely William P. Robinson, the last owner of the house.

In 1875, after the canal closed, the house became a private residence. William Phillips, a grain-buyer and commission merchant from York, Pennsylvania, came to Alexandria; prior to acquiring the house--which had lacked a lockkeeper for fifteen years in 1890--he was a leading citizen in Alexandria. In 1862 he was engaged in merchandising from the Charlton Building, and by 1868 Phillips was a leading merchant in the county. In 1868-69 he served as secretary of the Alexandria school board, and was its treasurer in 1881 (Africa, 427).

Phillips was politically active, as well. In 1861, 1864-65, and 1879, he was a town burgess (Africa, 431). He lived in the former Odd Fellows lodge (HABS No. PA-5398), though he owned other properties in town, including the lockkeeper's house.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is gable-end, two-story, of frame with two bays on the short (formerly main) facade and three bays on the long (presently main) facade.

2. Condition of the fabric: Fair, with numerous additions and alterations.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is an L-plan, taking into account three additions: the main block is 32' by 18'; the shed, 20' by 12'; and the garage, 27' by 13'.

2. Foundations: Stone and brick.

3. Wall construction: Frame with horizontal siding.

4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame.

5. Porches: A one-story, 7'-deep frame porch wraps around the north, south, and west facades. A partial porch on the south facade no longer exists.

6. Chimneys: One chimney is located on the east end of the shed addition on the east wall, in the northeast corner of the house.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The original front facade was the south facade,

facing the canal. That wood door is now the southwest bay; the present front door is located in the southern bay of the west facade.

b. Windows: One-over-one-light wood sash; no shutters. Two windows on the second story, and two or three on the first story.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Originally a gable front; now a side-facing gable with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Wood boxed cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: A living room occupies the full width of the south wall. A second room extends from the center to the north wall, which serves as the present hall. At the back of this room is the stairway to the second floor. The kitchen is located in the northeast frame addition.

2. Stairways: The main, wood stairway rises a few treads up to the east, then turns with a landing and rises along the east wall, north.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered.

4. Doorways and doors: Two first-floor doors and one on the second story.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house is situated in what is now a predominantly residential area. Originally, however, an inn was across Hartslog Street to the west; the Presbyterian Church was built across the street to the north; to the south was the canal bed, and beyond that, the library; to the east is another residence. All except the library are contemporary to this building.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: There is a sizeable side yard north of the house. A gravel driveway leads to the garage from Shelton Avenue.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THOMAS STEWART HOUSE
(Shelter Inn/Canal Inn)

HABS No. PA-5408

Location: The Thomas Stewart House is located west of the intersection of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Gladys and Elmer Huggler.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This residence facing the canal route was owned by Robert Lytle and for many years served as the Shelter Inn, a tavern that catered to canal--and perhaps later, railroad--travelers. It is one of the oldest buildings in town, notable for its placement away from Main Street and the turnpike.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1804. Tax records show that in 1804 the Stewarts were taxed for a house. Also, a letter written by Jane Woolverton when the inn was sold gives its history and the 1804 construction date (Interview with Jean Harshbarger). In 1867 deeds first mention the building as having been "formerly a hotel."

2. Original and subsequent owners: The lot is located on a tract east of the corner of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue, extending westward to the east end of what was formerly a 12' alley, thence south along said strip to the right-of-way of the Petersburg Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to the west side of Hartslog Street.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1816 Deed March 23, 1816, recorded in Volume P1, Page 46.
Elizabeth Gemmill
TO
Thomas and Ann Stewart (daughter).

1826 Deed April 16, 1826, recorded in Volume U1, Page 282.
Thomas Stewart
TO
Robert Lytle.

1867 Deed 1867, recorded in Volume D3, Page 136.

Robert Lytle (Orphan's Court)
TO
Dr. Tobias Harnish.

1897 Will recorded in Will Book 15, Page 84.
Tobias Harnish (died May 13, 1897)
TO
Lettie Harnish.

1901 Deed July 25, 1901, recorded in Volume R4, Page 456.
Letitia Harnish
TO
William Woolverton.

1921 Deed February 14, 1921, recorded in Volume S6, Page 355.
Edith Beaver Woolverton, et al.
TO
William H. Baker.

1932 Deed December 28, 1932, recorded in Volume L7, Page 315.
Blanche Putt
TO
William and Celia M. Baker.

1964 Deed September 14, 1964, recorded in Volume 62, Page 365.
Frances P. Baker (executor for William S. Baker)
TO
Donald B. English.

1971 Deed August 2, 1971, recorded in Volume 98, Page 51.
Donald B. English
TO
Gladys and Elmer Huggler.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The structure was designed to front south, and did when the canal and railroad came through Alexandria. Originally the house was a three-bay side-hall plan with the front door on the southwest corner. The two westernmost bays were added shortly after the building was constructed, about 1804. The cellar is contained under the east section of the building. The wall between the hall and the west rooms--historically an exterior wall--is about 1' thick. This wall has reportedly been removed at the attic level; perhaps carried out at the time of the addition.

Originally a bank barn and springhouse were part of the complex.

4. Alterations and Additions: A two-story frame ell has been added to the north,

rear wall corner of the house; this is wrapped with a one-story shed-roofed porch. The entirety of this addition serves to reorient the house to front on to Shelton Avenue, from its original position facing the canal. The front door now occupies a former, central window bay. The original doorway opening is extant on the south side, which now holds a modern, aluminum door.

The interior has been altered dramatically. A bathroom now separates the south and north sections of the hall, creating a small foyer for what is now the front entry on the north side of the structure.

According to the Huntingdon County Historic Sites Survey, the stairs to the second floor have been partially enclosed, and the position of the stairway to the third floor changed. Both may have been open originally.
A late-nineteenth-century porch has been removed.

The original wooden window casings on the first floor, south facade, have been replaced with a synthetic material. No shutters remain, but the shutter hardware does.

B. Historical Context: In 1816 Elizabeth Gemmill, founder of Alexandria, deeded this land to her daughter, Ann, and son-in-law, Thomas, who had apparently been living on it for some time (Harshbarger, 32). She also deeded the tannery lot east of the house, and "the privilege of continuing the conduit for water from the upper spring as it now passes to the tanyard. . ." (Gemmill's deed). The tanyard was passed among several owners until 1826 when the sheriff sold it to Robert Lytle.

Robert Lytle operated a public house, the Shelter Inn, during the canal era, as well as working as a tanner (Africa, 427). It is probable that this building was converted from a house into an inn about 1830 in anticipation of the canal, although no mention of it as such is documented until 1867. Lytle was in the tanning business with Robert Stitt Sr., who lived on Shelton Avenue, while Alexander Stitt lived a block away on Main Street; together Lytle and the younger Stitt advertised for green hides. Lytle later deeded to Alexander Stitt's son, Robert, the tanyard, outbuildings, and springhouse.

Dr. Tobias Harnish, the buildings' owner during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, practiced medicine in Water Street before moving to Alexandria (Africa, 430). His Alexandria residence in the late 1800s was on Main Street, so it is likely that he rented the tavern to a resident innkeeper.

The Shelter Inn was erroneously called the Shelton Inn in 1971, after a misderivation or misspelling of the street name, Shelton Avenue.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Side-gabled, double pile.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good, although there is indication of structural stress.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house is 45' x 32'; the addition from 12' to 38'.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond with a stringcourse between the cellar and the ground floor.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: A large shed-roofed porch has been added to the north facade, into which is constructed a two-story frame ell.

6. Chimneys: One interior brick chimney remains on the east gable end; in addition to which there is a newer brick exterior chimney.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The original, single front door centered on the south facade is a synthetic replacement, as is the door on the north facade. The opening, however, features flanking three-light sidelights.

 b. Windows: Six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side-gable with asbestos shingles.

 b. Cornice: Wood boxed cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

 a. Cellar: Some bark is visible on the log walls of the cellar.

 b. First floor: The southeast corner (family room) space and northeast kitchen each contain a fireplace on the east gable wall; an open doorway connects them. Another doorway on the kitchen's west wall leads into the present front hall, which is divided from the rest of the original hall by a modern bathroom. The stairway leads up the west wall to the second floor.

 The southwest corner living room and southeast corner dining room also contain a fireplace on their west walls, and open into each other and the extremities of the hall space.

2. Stairways: The stairs to the second floor have been partially enclosed, and the

position of the stairway to the third floor has been reoriented, according to the current owner. Both may have originally been open.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

4. Doorways and doors: The west section of the second floor is 8" higher than this level of the original, east end.

5. Decorative features: The original chair rails have been removed. One original fireplace mantel remains in a bedroom.

D. Site: General Setting: The old Shelter Inn building is located on a large lot on the north edge of Alexandria's grid plan. While there are residences across Shelton Avenue to the north, they are spaced farther apart than those on Main Street. The Presbyterian Church is on the northeast corner of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue. South of the house is a steep embankment that once led to the canal, and later to the railroad bed. The current fire station lies below the embankment on the other side of what is now the filled-in canal bed. Landscaping, enclosures: A hedge bounds the property on the east flank.



Figure 3.19. Southwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HENRY WILLIBRAND BREWERY

HABS No. PA-5409

Location: 700 Block, Main Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: William L. and Nancy B. Howe.

Present Use: Apartment building.

Significance: The Willibrand Brewery was one an important commercial enterprise in Alexandria from the inception of the canal era until at least mid-century, into the period dominated by the railroad. It reflects the lucrative brewing and distilling industry that thrived in Pennsylvania into the early twentieth century. Although the building has been adapted for residential use, it is one of the few buildings in the borough that serves as a reminder of its industrial heritage.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1824 or ca. 1833; in 1824 Henry Willibrand advertised his brewery in Alexandria. He may have been renting from the previous owner, James Trimble, or the brewery could have been located elsewhere in Alexandria, since Willibrand did not gain title to the land until 1829.

 In 1833 he advertised his brewery again: Either Willibrand tore down the existing facility to build anew, or he made additions to it.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The building is set 80' back from the street, situated on two lots that front 120' on the south side of Main Street, and extend back 180' to an alley. It is located in the western end of the borough, two lots from the southwestern boundary line.

 The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

 1829 Deed 1829, recorded in Volume F2, Page 263.
 Dr. James Trimble and wife
 TO
 Henry Willibrand.

 1835 Henry Willibrand is first listed in the tax records of Porter Township, Huntingdon County, as owning "1 Brewery and 2 lots."

 1840 Deed September 1, 1840, recorded in Volume F2, Page 264.
 Henry Willibrand (Orphans Court docket)
 TO

Henry and John Fockler (John later sold his half to Henry).

1856 Deed May 2, 1856, recorded in Volume M2, Page 147.
Henry Fockler
TO
Philip M. Piper and Nicholas Isenberg.

1864 According to Harshbarger, in August or September 1864, an article in the Huntingdon Globe noted that E.O. Colder has purchased the interest of T. Newell in this establishment and it would henceforth operate as E.O. Colder and Company. No deed was found to support this.

1873 Deed February 22, 1873, recorded in Volume D3, Page 420.
Samuel T. and Sarah J. Brown, and John M. Bailey and Lettie F. Bailey
TO
Jacob Hoffman (one-third), G. Estep (one-third), B. Neff (one-third).

1877 Estep and Hoffman's combined two-thirds interest was deeded to Robert E. Speer, probably on April 18, 1877, but the records are unclear.

1879 Deed April 21, 1879, recorded in Volume M4, Page 346.
Benjamin Neff (one-third)
TO
Peter Harnish.

1898 Deed September 7, 1898, recorded in Sheriff's Book 2, Page 403.
Union National Bank of Huntingdon for Peter Harnish estate (one-third)
TO
E.S. McMurtrie ("formerly Brew House, now occupied as a residence").

1899 McMurtrie and Speer sold to John H. Hutchison separately in 1899 (Volume P4, Page 324).

1902 Deed March 3, 1902, recorded in Volume S4, Page 202.
John H. Hutchison (full interest)
TO
George R. Hutchison.

1940-85 Various owners used the building as separate apartments.

1985 Deed May 28, 1985, recorded in Volume 182, Page 32.
Peter Simpson (trustee for Shawn, Greg, and Andrew Simpson)
TO
William and Nancy Howe.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been

located. Originally the house was probably without porches except, perhaps, for one over the front two doors. It was a simple, commercial two-story building with a side-gabled roof. One large room occupied the western section of the first floor for the brewing operation, adjacent to which was an office in the eastern section.

4. Alterations and additions: The building has been remodeled into four apartments; no original brewery equipment remains. The building has been increased to two-and-a-half stories through the addition of cross-gable dormers. The attic and cellar are relatively intact.

B. Historical Context: Brewing and distilling, founded as cottage industries, were significant and lucrative enterprises beginning in the Colonial era and continuing into the twentieth century. Western Pennsylvania distilleries found a good market in the rapidly expanding Midwest frontier, with exports down the Ohio River reaching 100,000 gallons annually by 1794.

Whiskey was one of the leading commodities carried on the varied river craft that traversed the Susquehanna, Juniata, and connecting waterways prior to the Civil War. After 1850 the number of small distilleries declined as production centered in larger, specialized facilities such as those in Alexandria. In 1860, for instance, there were 182 producers of malt liquors in Pennsylvania; in 1870 there were 246 breweries in the state. By 1900, Pennsylvania had 281 distilleries and breweries.

In 1824 Willibrand advertised his brewery in Alexandria, possibly at a site previous to this one. In an 1833 Huntingdon Gazette advertisement, Willibrand announced that his new brewery was operating in Alexandria, headed by a brewer from Philadelphia. Willibrand did not long enjoy his new operation, however, for in 1835 he drowned in the canal lock while substituting for a sick lock- keeper (Harshbarger, 25).

The succession of men who owned or had an interest in the brewery defined themselves by different professions. According to the 1850 census, two P. Pipers, ages 54 and unknown, were farmers; Henry Fockler, 37, was a brewer; and Jacob Hoffman, 50, a merchant. Yet, in 1860 Hoffman is listed as a miller and Nicholas Isenberg, 38, a brewer; in 1870 Isenberg is identified as an auctioneer. The 1880 census lists 48-year-old Peter Piper as as a carpenter, and 31-year-old Jacob Hoffman as a wagonmaker. In 1873 the business was operated as the Alexandria Brewery. Until at least 1879, the property included a stable and other outbuildings, according to the deed between Benjamin Neff and Peter Harnish. The site may have served as a brewery upto 1880.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Willibrand Brewery is a vernacular industrial brick building distinguished by its relatively large utilitarian mass and uniform wall openings, despite modern alterations.

2. Condition of the fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The brewery is 81' x 35'. The two front porches, probably added when the building was remodeled into apartments, are both 27' x 5'. The side porch on the east facade is 15' x 7'. The rear porch on the southeast section is 16' x 6'. The southwest corner porch is 43' x 6'.

2. Foundation: Cut stone.

3. Wall construction: Red brick laid in Flemish bond on the front facade; common-bond courses on the east (and probably west and rear) facades.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: Five porches have been added to the building during its conversion into apartments. Two in the front, one on the east end, and two on the rear facade of the building. Each porch is functional, with a shed roof of sheet metal over wood, and little or no adornment. The east porch is enclosed frame. All flooring, steps, and railings are wood.

6. Chimneys: There is currently one exterior chimney on the west gable end; in 1976 there were three chimneys.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: Doorways and modern aluminum doors have been added to the main facade to provide access to each of the four apartments. The two original door openings are in the northwest corner of the building, and three bays east of that. The wood doors are paneled.

 b. Windows: The five windows in the east end of the facade, as well as some along the first floor, feature two-over-two-light double-hung sash; the eight paired second-story windows in the west section are one-over-one-light modern aluminum sash, as are three first-floor windows. The three windows on the east-end wall (first floor) are double-hung, four-over-four-light wood sash. Modern dormers each feature small, one-over-one-light windows. There are no shutters.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Gable-end with three cross-gable dormers on front facade; all covered with sheet metal.

 b. Cornice: Wood box cornice with gutter.

C. Description of Interior: Much altered.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The brewhouse is located at the western end of Alexandria, surrounded by residences on the north, east, and west sides. To the south is a gravel parking lot, beyond which are fields.

2. Outbuildings: A stable and other original outbuildings are gone.



Figure 3.20. Northeast/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EVANDER P. WALKER STORE

HABS No. PA-5410

Location: The Walker Store is located on the north side of Main Street, five lots north of Hartslog Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Robert Foster.

Present Use: Video arcade and apartments.

Significance: This is the only gable-front, three-bay commercial building in Alexandria that dates from the mid-nineteenth century, although it was constructed after the canal-boom period and north of Hartlog Street. It is also one of the few buildings that retains its commercial character, despite having been partially converted into a dwelling. It remained in the Walker family for 100 years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1855-75. According to a period map of Alexandria (Harshbarger, 39), Henry C. Walker owned this lot in 1855. In 1860 he sold the property with only a dwelling on it for $700. The lot was sold again in 1862, for $800, to Evander P. Walker, who was a merchant in Alexandria at that time. He also owned a store in 1875 and 1900; it is likely he erected the store after acquiring the lot, although the specific year has not been determined.

2. Original and subsequent owners: Lot No. 17, on which the store now stands, originally fronted 60 feet on the north side of Main Street and extended back 200 feet to Canal Street. However, the property now fronts 20' on the north side of Main Street and extends back 59' from the curb line.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1860 Deed August 28, 1860, recorded in Volume P2, Page 390.
Henry C. Walker
TO
Samuel Isenberg.

1862 Deed September 12, 1862, recorded in Volume Q2, Page 354.
Samuel Isenberg
TO
Evander P. Walker.

1868 Deed March 20, 1872, recorded in Volume B3, Page 356.

(Originally deeded September 16, 1868, but document was burned.)
Evander P. Walker
TO
Susan Walker.

1885 Deed September 10, 1885, recorded in Volume U3, Page 179.
Charles E. Ault et al. (heirs of Susan Walker)
TO
Evander P. Walker.

1935 Deed July 13, 1935, recorded in Volume N7, Page 538.
Mary Claire Hughes et al. (granddaughter of E.P. Walker, daughter of Fred Walker)
TO
Sue Y. Walker and Mary Walker.

1962 Deed December 27, 1962, recorded in Volume 55, Page 88.
Mary and Sue Y. Walker (Paul Swigart, executor)
TO
Frederick Cullinan.

1982 Deed November 14, 1981, recorded in Volume 164, Page 706.
Frederick Cullinan
TO
Robert P. Foster.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The vernacular structure was originally a front-facing gable, three-bay brick store.

4. Alterations and additions: All windows have been replaced with modern sash. A metal shed has been added to the rear facade. Today there is evidence of a brick accretion resembling a buttress, about 5' tall at the north end of the east wall; this does not appear in historic photographs.

B. Historical Context: The Walker store first appears on period maps in 1855, when it was one of the few commercial buildings on Main Street north of Hartslog Street and away from the concentrated eastern end of town. From 1850-60 Henry C. Walker was a merchant in Alexandria. He also served as school board secretary in 1850 at age 35 (Africa, 430).

Evander P. Walker, probably Henry's son, acquired the store in 1862 and is identified as a dry-goods merchant in 1862-63 and 1880 censuses. He was a member of the Odd Fellows, for which he served as treasurer in 1881. Walker was a burgess in Alexandria from 1875-76 and 1880-81.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-story, three-bay, brick storefront represents the lone extant example of mercantile vernacular architecture in Alexandria.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 20' x 55'.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Wall construction: Brick laid in seven-course American bond on all facades, indicative of its utilitarian function. Ornamentation is confined to mouse-tooth and dentil coursing at the cornice.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The front door is accessed by three steps. A one-story wood porch on the rear facade dually serves as a balcony accessed through the second-floor door.

6. Chimneys: An exterior cinder-block chimney is located on the northeast corner of the north facade.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The wood front door features two bottom panels and three-light glazing on the top portion.

b. Windows: The original two-over-two-light double-hung sash flanking the door have been replaced with one-over-one-light double-hung sash; one set of paneled shutters on the west window are extant. On the second floor, six-over-six-light double-hung sash have been replaced with one-over-one-light and fixed sash. The modern window casings have been set within the original openings surrounded by brick infill.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Front-facing gable with asbestos shingles.

b. Cornice: Decorative brickwork--mouse-toothing and dentil coursing--is located under the eaves of the east and west (side) facades. The corners

feature brick corbeling.

D. Site: The Evander P. Walker Store is located in the what historically has been a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood on Main Street. Across the street is a bank and a funeral home; behind it is a fire hall. To the east is a small open lot; on the west is the residence that historically has been associated with the store in deed transactions.

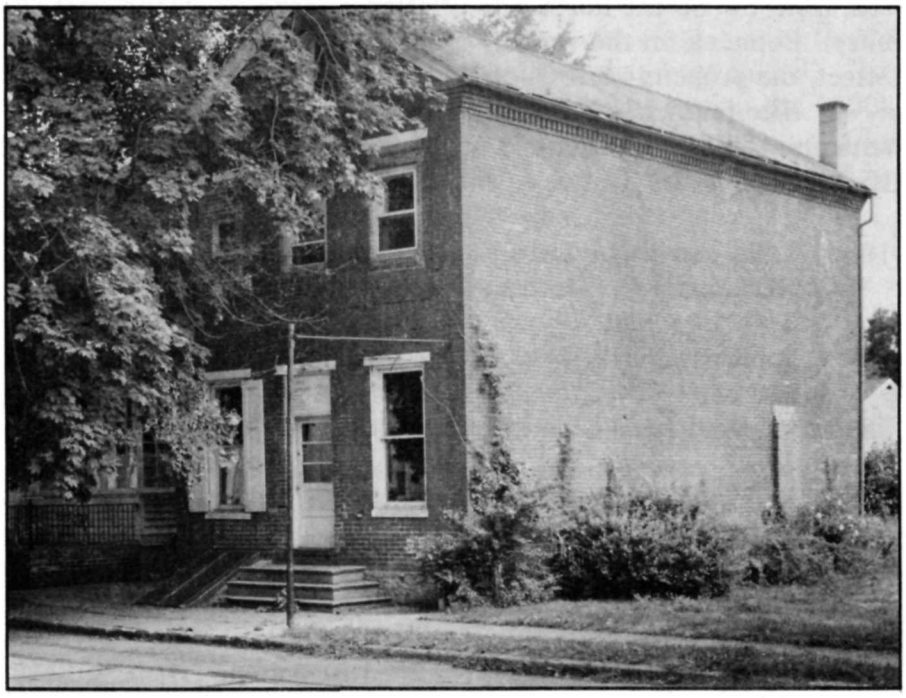


Figure 3.21. Southwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDRIA HIGH SCHOOL

HABS No. PA-5411

Location: The former Alexandria school is located on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Gladys Sponsler.

Present Use: Boarding house for the elderly.

Significance: This building contained the first high school to graduate a class in Porter Township; it served Alexandria Borough children from its construction in 1869 into the 1920s. Its modest Italianate detailing is unique in Alexandria.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1869.

2. Architect: Jacob Baker (Africa, 431).

3. Original and subsequent owners: Lot Nos. 121 and 122, on which the building sits, front 50' on the north side of Main Street and extend back 200' to an alley. Bounded on the west by an adjacent lot and on the east by Church Street, the property consists of three adjoining tracts of land.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

1839 Deed November 1, 1839, recorded in Volume B2, Page 164.
Reverend John McKinney
TO
John Cresswell.

1839-68 Deed trace is confused.

1868 Deed December 17, 1868, recorded in Volume Z2, Page 215.
William Moore
TO
Jacob Baker, et al. (Trustees for the school).

1929 Deed January 16, 1929, recorded in Volume D7, Page 515.
School District of Alexandria Borough
TO
Lock Haven Realty Company.

1945 Deed October 16, 1945, recorded in Volume G8, Page 638.
Lock Haven Realty Company
TO
Gladys Sponsler.

4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. A local history (about 1883) describes the structure as "a large and attractive-looking brick edifice, on the Main Street of the Borough, [with] a spacious yard. In the building are four rooms, well-furnished and heated by a furnace in the basement" (Africa, 431). The two-story school was designed as a modest Federal-style plan with a center hall flanked by two large rooms. The principal, or headmaster, occupied a small office at the top of the stairs. Two stairways rose from the entrance hall along the west and east walls, respectively, and north to the second floor.

A stove used to heat the building was vented through a pipe whose hole can still be discerned in the east wall on the first floor. A photograph taken sometime in the late 1800s shows that originally the windows contained six-over-six-light sash, with three-light transoms above the double front door. A shed-roofed Greek Revival porch on the front facade was supported by four pairs of plain wood columns and two attached half columns.

5. Alterations and additions: A 1924 photograph reveals a two-story frame wing extending perpendicularly from the center of the rear wall. The windows are six-over-six-light sash like those on the main block. On to that, a one-story brick extension with two smaller windows has been added. The full porch on the main facade was probably added sometime during the 1950s, when the building was used as a hotel. Two large, modern picture windows have been installed on the east and west ends of the main facade, flanking the three central entry doors; only the center door is original.

The fire-escapes on the east and west facades were added by the present owner in the 1960-70s; accessed by the central opening on the second floor, which has been converted from a window into a door.

The two stairways that rose from the entrance hall along the west and east walls, north to the second floor, have been removed. In their place is a single, straight wood stairway that runs from the center of the hall to the second floor.

The interior of the building has been remodeled. The original two rooms upstairs apparently have been partitioned into several rooms. The existing floorboards have been laid over the original floors.

Gas pumps were in the front yard in the 1930s, say local residents.

B. Historical Context: The transactions concerning this piece of property are difficult to trace. According to a local historian, Mary Ann McLain sold the tract to Reverend John McKinney. McKinney then sold it to John Cresswell, who owned a number of lots in town, as well as a stone house on the east edge of Alexandria. Cresswell sold the land to the borough for use as the site of a frame or log school, 1841-68; this

building was later moved to the rear of the lot where the current brick school is located, from which it was later removed completely. When the town decided to erect the building, it bought back an adjacent tract that had previously been sold to William Moore (Harshbarger, notes).

A log school house, predecessor of the present structure, was reputedly maintained on the property for several years after the brick school house was constructed. In 1929, after a new school had been erected outside the borough limits, the school district of Alexandria sold this property. From that time until at least 1945 the building was used for a variety of purposes, including a tea room and a hotel; it was sold as a hotel in 1945. The present owner continued to operate the hotel for several years before turning it into a boarding home for elderly residents of Alexandria.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a standard, five-bay, rectangular-plan structure distinguished by an Italianate cupola at the center of a hipped roof.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main rectangular block is 71' x 34'. The kitchen extension on the north wall is 11' x 28', and the extension west of this along the north wall is 18' x 14'.

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Wall construction: The brick walls are laid in seven-course common bond; the two rear wings are frame.

4. Structural system, framing: The structure is supported by brick load-bearing exterior walls.

5. Porches: The full, one-story front porch measures 71' x 12'. It is supported by six fluted wood columns, matched by two half-columns on the facade.

6. Chimneys: One brick exterior chimney is located on the north wall, 15' from the northeast corner.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are three front doors. The original door opening is in the center of the south wall. A French door of wood, with a deep one-light transom, has replaced the original double doors.

b. Windows: The windows on the five-bay, front facade and the three-bay east and west gable-end walls, are new, one-over-one-light sash; the rear facade features six-over-six-light double-hung sash. Picture windows flank the three front doors. The louvered shutters have been removed, though some of the hardware remains. Each window has a wooden lintel and projecting lower sill. There are modern one-over-one-light windows on each facade of the rear additions.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: The stepped brick cornice forms a modest Italianate pattern of corbeling; the corners are treated like stepped brick capitals.

c. Dormers, towers: A square Italianate wood cupola dominates the roofline; set on a plain base, each of the four sides has two louvered shutters articulated by pilasters, all under a deep cornice. A smaller, secondary cupola rises from the hipped roof of the pirimary one, boasting four blank round-arched openings, a wide cornice with brackets, and a metal weather vane.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: The easternmost front door leads into a dining area, which is separated from the west portion of the room by a partition approximately 3' high with an opening for access in the center. West of this room is the entrance hall, accessed by a southwest-corner door. North of this room is the kitchen addition.

b. Second floor: The two original, large rooms on the second floor have been divided into separate apartments.

2. Stairways: One open-well stairway rises north from the center of the entrance hall to the second floor. Originally there were two stairways--one east and one west of the hall--both rising north to the second floor.

3. Flooring: The building presumably features wood floors underneath existing carpeting and linoleum.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: The wood door in the southeast corner of the entry hall, leading to the east room, is original.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The former school is situated on the primarily residential Main Street. Opposite, to the south, is the German Reformed Church; two lots west is the Methodist Church. Other surrounding buildings are residential.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: At an earlier date, according to an undated photograph, an iron-rail fence surrounded the school lot. It no longer exists.



Figure 3.22. Alexandria High School, northeast/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH
(Christ Reformed Church)

HABS No. PA-5412

Location: Fronting 120' on the south side of Main Street, the church lot is approximately 20' west of Church Street, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Christ United Church of Christ congregation.

Present Use: Church.

Significance: This church has been the focal point for religious and social activity for many residents of Alexandria from the middle of the nineteenth century to present, a prominence evidenced by its location on Main Street. Stylistically it represents a modest Greek Revival church design that has remained largely unaltered.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Built 1849, consecrated 1851.

2. Original and subsequent owners: On April 13, 1846, John G. Stewart conveyed a lot of ground to Benjamin and John Huyett, in trust for the Reformed congregation (Africa, 434). The German Reformed Church congregation erected the building in 1849 and has owned it since, though the name has changed over the years.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. Originally the church was a brick, Greek Revival-styled building; the bell tower was added soon after construction of the main block. The windows are placed into four recessed panels demarked by plain brick pilasters. It has four tall two-over-two-light double-hung sash on the second-story of the east and west side-wall facades. A small rectangular two-over-two-light sash is located below each of these, on the first-story. The three-bay front facade includes a central set of double paneled doors; vertical sash like those on the side facades flank the doorway, below which is a blank, recessed panel. An early photograph shows the churchyard surrounded by a low iron railing with a gate before the door (which had no stoop before it).

4. Alterations and additions: A frame, exterior bay-like addition behind the pulpit, placed approximately 15' up the south wall, was added to illuminate the interior somewhat; this wall was originally without windows or it contained the two stained-glass side windows that are now on the shallow west and east sides of the addition. The addition rests on iron poles that support an iron beam. A doorway directly below the pulpit bay has been bricked up.

A one-story frame shed is attached to the southwest corner of the building. A brick exterior gable chimney rises from inside the shed and extends up the south wall of the church.

A modern stained-glass transom panel above the front door reads, "Christ Reformed Church." The dedication stone set into the recessed brick panel above the front door originally read "German Reformed Church 1851," but the word "German" was reportedly chipped away during World War I when anti-German sentiments ran high.

B. Historical Context: The German Reformed and Lutheran congregations in the area surrounding Alexandria (including Water Street, approximately a mile and one-half west of Alexandria) built a meeting house in Shaffersville about 1817. Between 1843 and 1852, under Reverend Samuel H. Reid, the Water Street charge was divided into three new congregations: Keller, Sinking Valley, and Alexandria. They functioned independently, but under the same ministerial direction (Africa, 434). The reorganization may have been spurred by the prosperous canal era of the 1840s, when membership increased substantially.

The lot on which the building now stands was previously occupied by the Hartslog Presbyterian Congregation from 1825--when it built a brick church on the property--until 1831, when the congregation moved to the White Church in Alexandria (see ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH). The first brick church building was sold to James Wilson in 1833, possibly for use as a store (Harshbarger, 27-28). It was probably gone by 1846 when the German Reformed group purchased the lot from John G. Stewart. The present church, constructed to house 500 worshippers, was begun in 1849 (Africa, 434). Records of 1852 for Alexandria show that the church and its one-quarter acre of land was tax-exempt.

The Reformed parsonage lot was purchased in 1846 or 1850 (sources disagree), three lots east of the southeast corner of the town square, on what is now Shelton Avenue (Harshbarger, 43).

Many members of the Alexandria church belonged to the Harnish, Isenberg, Neff, and Piper families; the names that appear in the churches' stained-glass windows. In 1881 the church trustees were Henry G. Neff and Benjamin Neff; the church council that year included Benjamin Neff and Benjamin Isenberg as elders, Henry G. Neff as deacon, and Benjamin Isenberg as superintendent of the Sunday school (Africa, 434).

By 1881 the facility was known as Christ Reformed Church (Africa, 434), the name that appears above the front-door transom.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a modest, Greek Revival-style two-story brick church with a bell tower atop the pedimented front gable.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 43' x 62'.

2. Foundations: Stone, with a two-brick stringcourse on the east and west facades.

3. Wall construction: Brick, running bond on the front, north facade; five- or six-course common bond on the east, south, and west walls. Brick pilasters and recessed panels articulate the four-bay east and west facades and the three-bay north facade.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The front entrance features a raised brick landing bounded by a modern iron railing.

6. Chimneys: A brick exterior chimney rises from the southwest corner of the south wall.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front door is a solid wood recessed double door with six panels and a stained-glass transom that reads: "Christ Reformed Church." The recessed casing that extends up beyond the transom about 2' has four vertical panels. A wood lintel is set into the brick above the door.

 b. Windows: All windows are two-over-two lights. The second-story fenestration is vertical stained-glass in wood, double-hung sash; these also flank the front doorway. Smaller two-over-two-light sash are located below the second-story windows and the side facades. The stained-glass window on the southwest corner is covered with six-over-six-light protective glazing. Some original shutter hardware remains on the lower windows.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Gable-front with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: The molded wood cornice is unadorned.

 c. Dormers, towers: The Greek Revival hexagonal bell tower with a metal-sheathed domical roof has round-arched openings on each of its six sides. It rises from atop a square wood base at the roof ridge on the north gable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: Two doorways that lead into classrooms border the south side of the entry hall, which is about 13' deep. A wall divides the first floor (north to south). The east half contains three rooms with doorways along the west wall. The opposite side is partitioned into three rooms by folding curtains.

b. Second floor: The sanctuary occupies the second floor. The altar area and pulpit are located in the south recess, which is framed by a Tudor-arch opening. Fifteen rows of pews divided by an aisle fill the room, including four rows of pews against the north wall that are stepped upward on risers. The organ is in the southwest corner.

2. Stairways: A pair of closed-well stairways lead from the entry up the north wall, along the west and east inside walls to a landing, and then south to the rear of the sanctuary.

3. Flooring: Wood.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. The ceiling is highly decorated with coffers and circular patterns.

5. Doorways and doors: The exterior woodwork over the entry is recessed and paneled wood.

6. Decorative features: The stained-glass windows throughout the church are alike in color and design, although the names inscribed on them differ. Low wainscoating and molding line the interior wall of the sanctuary. The altar is seen through a Tudor-arch opening.

7. Lighting fixtures: Four brass (electric) chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling, one in each corner of the sanctuary, respectively.

D. Site: The church lot is in the town center on the south side of Main Street, a major thoroughfare. A gravel parking lot is located west of the building. The church is surrounded by houses on the east and west; north across Main Street is a home for elderly persons; and south of the building are fields. A short hedge borders the north and east flanks of the property.

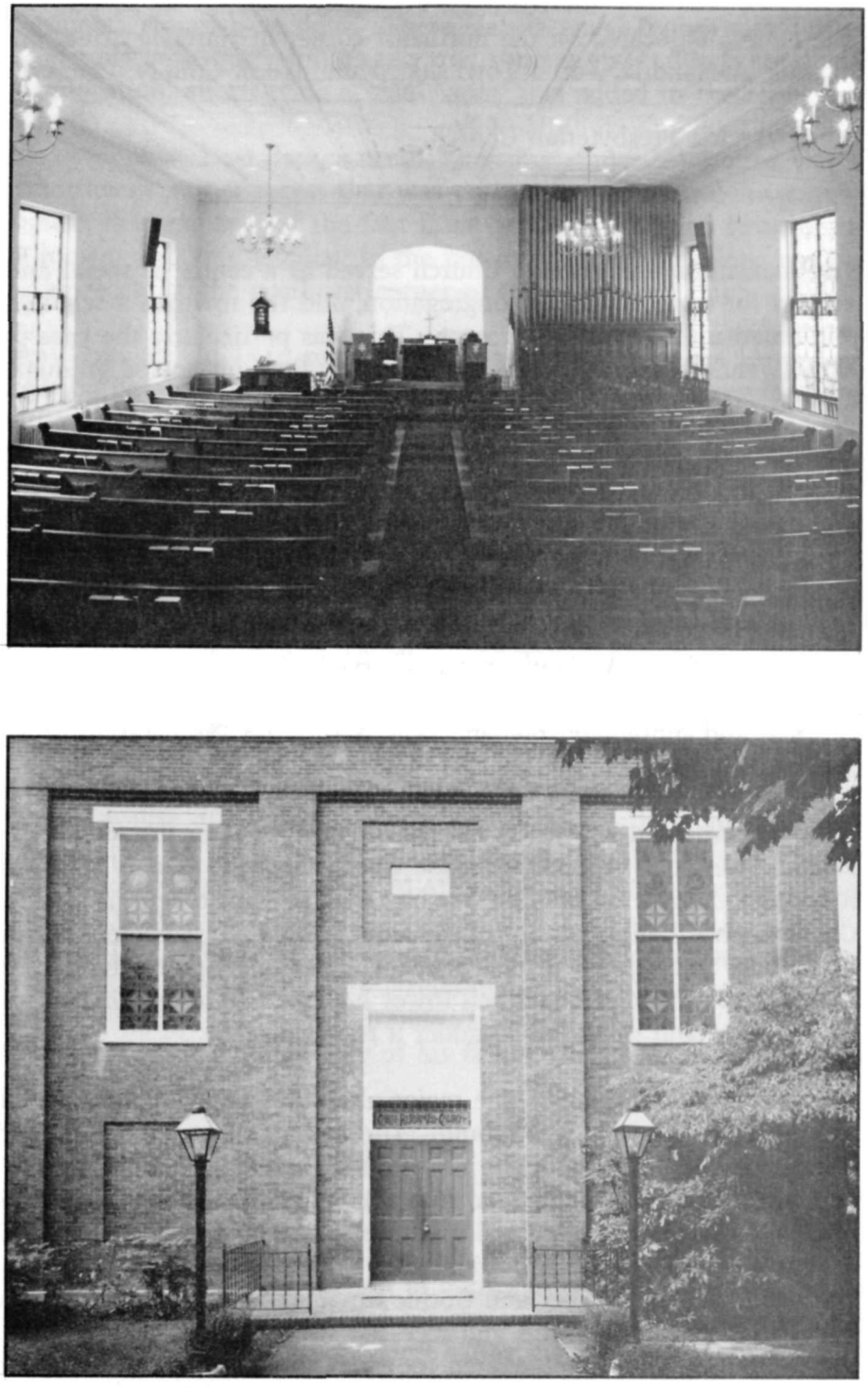


Figure 3.23. Interior view to altar (top) and detail of front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HABS No. PA-5413

Location: The church is located on the northeast corner of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Alexandria Presbyterian Church.

Present Use: Church.

Significance: The Alexandria Presbyterian Church served as a center of social and religious activity for members of its congregation, and the town as a whole, from the mid-nineteenth century to present. This was particularly the case prior to the early-twentieth century when the library auditorium hosted graduation exercises, plays, and other festivities.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1851.

2. Architect: William Walker, an Alexandria "house carpenter" (Harshbarger, 42).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Alexandria Presbyterian Church erected and constructed this building and has owned it since.

4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. Originally the main facade was identical to that of the German Reformed Church: a simple three-bay scheme with a central front door and Greek Revival bell tower above the front gable-end pediment (Harshbarger, 44). A ca. 1890 photograph reveals a white picket fence that originally surrounded the church. The hexagonal bell tower had six square openings, six pilasters, a box cornice, and small lintels under a round dome.

5. Alterations and additions: The major alteration to the church occurred in 1906 when the front facade was rebuilt. The bell tower was removed and the gable front extended southward: the new facade features a double-height, inset Gothic arch with a rusticated surround that fills most of the upper facade; it contains relatively elaborate tracery and quatrefoil window openings. The boxed doorway--which is inscribed with "1850 - First Presbyterian Church - 1906"--features a shaped parapet and Gothic ornament that mimics the windows above, but is executed in moldings and recessed wood panels. There is an abbreviated tower crossing with a crenellated roof line, and contrasting white masonry sills and lintels that extend to form beltcourses and a water table; these wings perpendicular to the entry allude to a formal cruciform plan.

Originally the sanctuary windows were sixteen-over-sixteen-light, double-

hung wood sash. Four vertical pointed-arch windows were installed on the second floor, in the recessed bays of the east and west side walls; below are simpler, squarish versions. These feature wood frames set in the original opening with quatrefoil tracery and stained glass. It's likely that during this renovation, an 18'-wide apsidal "oriel" was added to the center of the north wall.

At a later date, a small, one-story cinder-block shed was inserted in the northwest corner recess that was created by the central entry enlargement. Also, the rear area of the first floor has been modified to accommodate a back door and picture window in the north wall. Another door has been added in the recess of the northeast corner of the north wall.

B. Historical Context: In 1814 some members withdrew from the Harts Log Church congregation because the pastor, Reverend John Johnston, allegedly expressed some pro-British sentiments; in the wake of the War of 1812 this was not well received, and a large number of the Scotch-Irish congregation formed the Alexandria Presbyterian Church. In 1819 this contingent from Alexandria united with the nearby Shaver's Creek congregation, and contacted Reverend James Thompson (1792-1830). At that time there was no meeting house for the Presbyterian congregation, so they met in the shop of George Wilson (Africa, 433). The "White Meeting House" was built on the east side of Alexandria, and was used until the present building was erected in 1851. Meanwhile, in 1830 the two Presbyterian congregations were reunited.

The present Alexandria Presbyterian Church was built in 1851 at a cost of more than $6,000, including the land. Incorporated in this structure is some of the fabric of the material from the White Meeting House (Africa, 433-34). In 1852 the Presbyterian Church was listed in the tax records as occupying three-quarters of an acre on three town lots. Because of striking similarities between this building and the German Reformed Church on Main Street, it is possible the same architect was responsible for both structures, or they were modeled after the same precedent. Both buildings were completed in 1851.

Between 1836 and 1843 the industrious congregation grew considerably, from 164 to 220 members (Africa, 434). The facade of the building was renovated in 1906 with the financial support of one of Alexandria's leading citizens, William Thompson. The project was undertaken in memory of his father, the Reverend James Thompson, who preached from 1819-30.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Built at mid-century and remodeled during the early-twentieth century, the Alexandria Presbyterian Church reflects a Greek Revival form with extensive Second Gothic Revival detailing, including a prominent entry and pointed-arch stained-glass windows.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story, loosely cruciform-plan building features a front facade that is 56' x 77'; the added apse extends north 18' x 6'.

2. Foundations: The foundation of the original mass is stone, like that of the German Reformed Church in Alexandria; that of the added facade is concrete.

3. Wall construction: Brick, with the main facade laid in running-bond courses; the other three facades are constructed in five-course common bond. The buttresses flanking the entrance and the crenellated wings feature contrasting concrete beltcourses.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick.

5. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys are located on the corners of the north-wall extension.

6. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The Tudor-arch main doorway and entrance foyer is surrounded by decorative Gothic woodwork and a shaped parapet. The front door double doors of wood are Gothic-styled, with three iron strap hinges. The surround is embellished with intricate carving.

 b. Windows: The second-story sanctuary windows were replaced with Gothic-style pointed arches in 1906. The east and west side walls feature four each; there are two on the main, south facade. On the first level of the side facades are four smaller Gothic-arched windows. Twenty-four stained-glass windows are designed into the frame Gothic entranceway.

7. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: The roof is a front-facing gable covered with sheet metal. This is fronted by a shaped brick parapet with concrete coping and cruciform-shaped silhouettes.

 b. Cornice: A simple projecting wood cornice exists along the eaves of the original block.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The original rectangular plan of the church became a modified cruciform shape after remodeling.

D. Site: The church is on the northeast corner of Hartslog Street and Shelton Avenue, in an otherwise residential neighborhood. The parsonage was located in the fourth house east east of the church in 1875, but it had become a private dwelling by 1900.

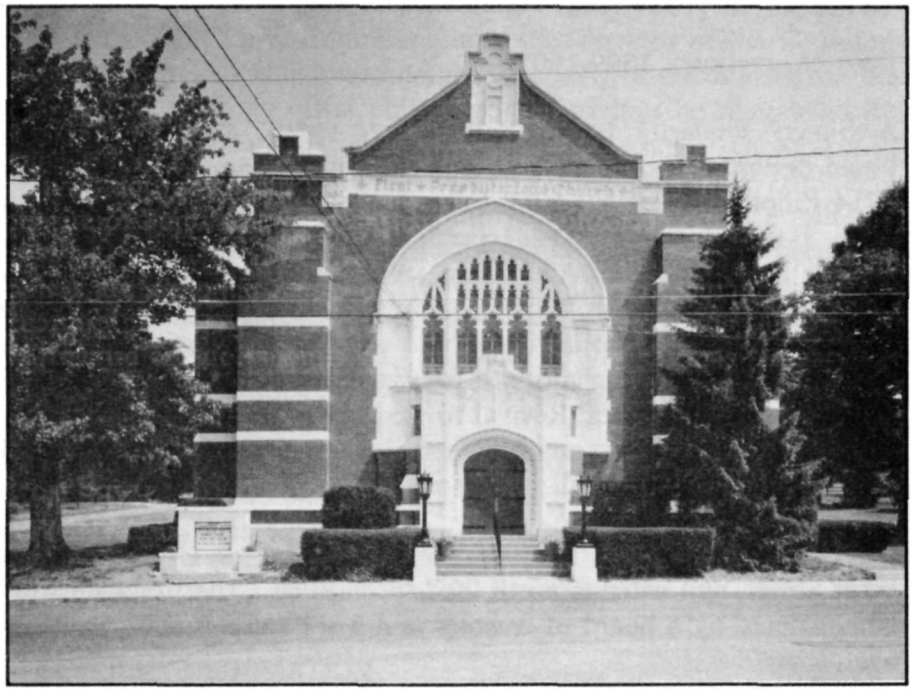


Figure 3.24. Southwest/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDRIA MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Memorial Free Library)

HABS No. PA-5414

Location: The building is located on the northeast corner of Hartslog and Main streets, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Alexandria Memorial Library Inc., a private endowment.

Present Use: Library.

Significance: The Alexandria Memorial Public Library is one of the most formal and high-style buildings in town. Two of Alexandria's leading citizens and philanthropists, William Woolverton and William Thompson, donated it to Alexandria, though it served as the first such facility in the three counties of Huntingdon, Blair and Bedford. This is the only library donated to any community in Huntingdon County, a precept modeled after the library-building program of Andrew Carnegie. The building, a good example of turn-of-the-century civic architecture, is rivaled in size only by the Presbyterian Church.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1899-1901.

2. Architect: Frederick James Shollar (1874-1960). Shollar, a prominent Altoona-based designer who appears in that city's directories in 1896 (alone); 1904, 1914 (Shollar & Hersh); 1917 (alone); 1925, 1927, 1930 (Hersh & Shollar); 1936, 1939 (alone); and 1941 (with W.G. Shollar). He was a protege of Charles M. Robinson of Altoona in 1887, and three years later he opened an office with Frank Hersh, a partnership that continued, on and off well into the twentieth century. Shollar is credited with helping to establish Altoona's city planning commission, chairing it for six years; with Hersh he is credited with introducing the Classical Revival to that city. Among his other commissions are the Altoona Trust Company building, Rothert Building, city hall and the Shriner's Jaffa Mosque--all in Altoona (Mirror).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The lot, including landscaping, fronts on Main Street, and extends north 200' to an alley. The privately run library is administered by a board of trustees and a self-perpetuating endowment.

4. Builder: J.C. Hall of Huntingdon built the library at a cost of $16,000.

5. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been found. The library has not been significantly altered since its construction, except for use of the upstairs space. The second floor was originally an

auditorium used for plays, lectures, and other social and civic events. Its 200 seats faced the stage area on the north wall.

6. Alterations and additions: Fans were installed in the ceilings of both the first and second floors in summer 1988. The auditorium interior was remodeled into a museum in 1975, at which time the seats were removed. The velvet curtain and footlights also have been removed. (Harshbarger, pamphlet, October 13, 1979) The stage is intact, as are the flanking dressing rooms. The building's original lighting was powered by acetylene gas, manufactured in a small brick outbuilding which stood until recently; the power is now electric.

B. Historical Context: Established in the same philanthropic spirit as industrialist Andrew Carnegie's endowment of local libraries, the Alexandria Public Library of Alexandria--and a $30,000 endowment for maintenance and new books--was built for the use of borough citizens by two cousins who had spent part of their childhoods in Alexandria: William Thompson (1823-1921) and William Woolverton (1842-1914). On October 10, 1900, the building was dedicated to their mothers, Eliza (Stewart) Thompson and Anna Maria (Stewart) Woolverton-Kinsloe, respectively.

Thompson was the son of Reverend James Thompson, minister of the Alexandria Presbyterian congregation from 1819 to 1830, and Eliza Stewart Thompson, granddaughter of Alexandria's founder, Elizabeth Gemmill. He eventually made a fortune in the early oil development of western Pennsylvania; he organized and served as president of the Oil City Savings Bank, and was director of the Centennial Bank of Philadelphia. Thompson owned considerable property in the Alexandria area, including a summer residence. Among other philanthropic activities he remodeled the facade of the Presbyterian Church, founded and equipped the borough's Thompson (fire-fighting) Hose Company, and supported various charities (Harshbarger, 77-78).

Woolverton was involved with the Pennsylvania Railroad in a number of capacities until 1872 when he moved to New York City. There he became a director, and later president, of the New York Transfer and Dodds Express Company, as well as president of the Bell Telephone company of New York. In 1899 Woolverton purchased a farm just beyond the eastern edge of Alexandria, where he built a summer estate called "Dorfgrenze (later, Hartslog) Farm" (Harshbarger, 77). Woolverton's great-grandmother was also Elizabeth Gemmill.

The Alexandria library stands on three lots: two double dwellings and a single house were torn down to accommodate it. Total cost of construction, furnishings, and the initial 2,000 books was $20,000. The auditorium was the site of many community gatherings, particularly secular ones, such as plays, poetry readings, minstrel shows, concerts, local talent shows, and graduation exercises.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The library represents high-style NeoRenaissance design and is one of the most formal buildings in Alexandria. The main facade boasts

a wide denticulated entablature at the roof and a secondary beltcourse at the second floor, brick quoins on the first-floor corners, and a full-height cross-gable entry porch with a decorated pediment.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good, although the entry porch is damaged and the plaster is failing.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 51' x 75'.

2. Foundations: The cut-stone foundation is topped by a 1' beltcourse of concrete.

3. Wall construction: Brick laid in running-bond courses; the walls are approximately 1' thick. A molded beltcourse separates the first and second stories, and the corners of the first story feature eight rusticated brick quoins.

4. Structural system, framing: Probably steel frame with exterior load-bearing masonry.

5. Porches: The library features a full-height, pedimented entry porch; its recessed floor is patterned brick; and six central concrete steps lead upto the porch. Above the decorated arch surround that features a keystone, are two sculpted medallions on a recessed panel: the west medallion reads "AD," the east medallion, "1899." "MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY" is inscribed on the frieze.

6. Chimneys: There are two interior brick chimneys near the south gable end. On the interior, the fireplace in the west section of the first floor is free standing. There may have been a matching, symmetrically placed fireplace in the librarian's office at the east end of the building, but now there is only a protrusion where the firebox would have been.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front door consists of two pairs of double wood doors, each with five horizontal panels; these are topped by a large transom with six decorated lights, and sidelights flank each set of the doors. Modern glazing has been installed in the arched opening above the transom. The five-paneled wood doors on the east and south sides of the building are located about 20' from the north wall.

b. Windows: The windows are of various design. Paired triple-light verticals topped by an ornamented multi-light transom are centered on the interior bays of each facade. Elliptical windows with ornamental glazing punctuate the ends of the second-story facades, below which are arched window openings.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof with central cross-gable on the west and east facades, and a gabled front entry porch. At least part of the roof is covered with sheet metal.

b. Cornice: A full entablature is composed of wood, with a double row of dentils, plain frieze, and architrave.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: The full-width entrance hall is about 10' deep and contains symmetrical open-welled stairways that have independent landings and climb to meet at the second floor. The main library room is beyond two double glass doors, and occupies the full length of the building. The interior is divided into a check-out area and librarian's office, using solid walls, decorated wood columns (probably masking the steel frame supports), segmental-arches and open arcades. The northwest fireplace is free-standing, with the firebox opening south. Two small, rear stairways run along the east and west walls north, to exits on the respective facades.

b. Second floor: Access is gained by the east and west stairways approaching from the sides. Two solid wood double doors are set into angled walls. The auditorium is one large room with an enclosed stairway leading south along the rear portion of the east wall, up to an enclosed platform that extends about 12' from the south wall and 10' from the east wall. The stage on the north wall is flanked by two doors that lead into the backstage area, two small dressing rooms, and the stairways to the first floor.

2. Stairways: The entryway stairs on the east and west walls are half-turn with landings, rising along the south wall of the entryway. Thirteen treads rise from the floor to the landing, and eleven treads lead from the landing to the second floor. Wood panels decorate the string below each tread. The squared newel post is flat with modest egg-and-dart and bead-and-reel carvings. The two wood stairways on the rear east and west walls lead to a landing on the north wall and take a quarter-turn; the first section is open-welled, the area above the landing is closed. Approximately 2-1/2' wide and 4' long, its newel post features an urn and carved detailing around the top base is a simpler version of that on the entryway stair newel posts--a line of egg and dart, and on the corners of the post, a bead-and-reel line down to the base.

3. Flooring: Modern carpeting obscures most of the first floor; the entryway is

linoleum. The second floor is wood plank.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: All walls are plastered. Dark, stained wood is used for support columns, door, and window trim, approximately 1' base molding, and to mask the steel infrastructure.

5. Doorways and doors: Double doors lead from the entry to the main room on the first floor, with four panels on the lower section and glazing above. The doors at the top of the rear stairs are five-paneled wood. The three double doors between the auditorium space and hall on the second-floor are solid wood, over which are arched transoms.

6. Decorative features: Much of the original hardware remains, such as door handles and shelving on the west section of the south wall. The original furniture features the bead-and-reel motif, and the diamond pattern in the columns are repeated in the woodwork of the window transoms. The fireplace surround is rusticated and molded brick.

7. Lighting fixtures: Three of the original gas wall fixtures are in the museum and one is in the small, first-floor kitchen. The lighting is now electric.

8. Heating: Oil.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The library is situated in the center of Alexandria on Main Street. The Bank of Alexandria was constructed across the street in the 1920s. The businesses that intermingled with the houses along Main Street are now used as dwellings, so the area is predominantly residential.

2. Landscaping, enclosures: A wide lawn east of the building is the site of a war memorial stone encircled by small flags. A stone commemorates the spot where John Hart, the Indian Trader believed to have been the first white man to stop at the Alexandria area. Trees and bushes surround all but the north side of the building. At one time an iron rail fence surrounded the building, or at least its front "yard," and a sidewalk led to both side doors.



Figure 3.25. Southwest/front facade (top) and interior view.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION

HABS No. PA-5415

Location: North side of Shelton Avenue, between Hartslog Street and the old canal basin, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: This served as Alexandria's first railroad station from 1897 to 1903. The railroad purchased this section of the canal in 1866, but did not close it until 1875; thus, the transportation industry in Alexandria during the last quarter of the century was served by one railroad, and this was the first, albeit short-lived, local depot.

Description: Square frame structure approximately 18' by 18', with a pyramidal, low-pitched roof. One facade featured a central door flanked by six-over-six-light wood sash; another is dominated by oversized double wood doors. The wide eaves and modest cornice brackets are the sole ornamentation.

History: Constructed in 1897 (HAER inventory), this railroad station was erected when the railway company extended the tracks (off the mainline at Petersburg) through Alexandria. It was used until 1903 when William Woolverton convinced the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to erect a finer building (demolished) to reflect the new, nearby Alexandria Memorial Library. The Pennsylvania Railroad occupied the building until this time, when it ceased to be a depot and was relocated. It is currently unused.

Sources: Harshbarger, Jean, N.R.Taylor, S.H. Zabriskie, F.R. Zabriskie. Hartslog Heritage. State College, PA: K-B Offset Printing Co., 1975; 74, 78.

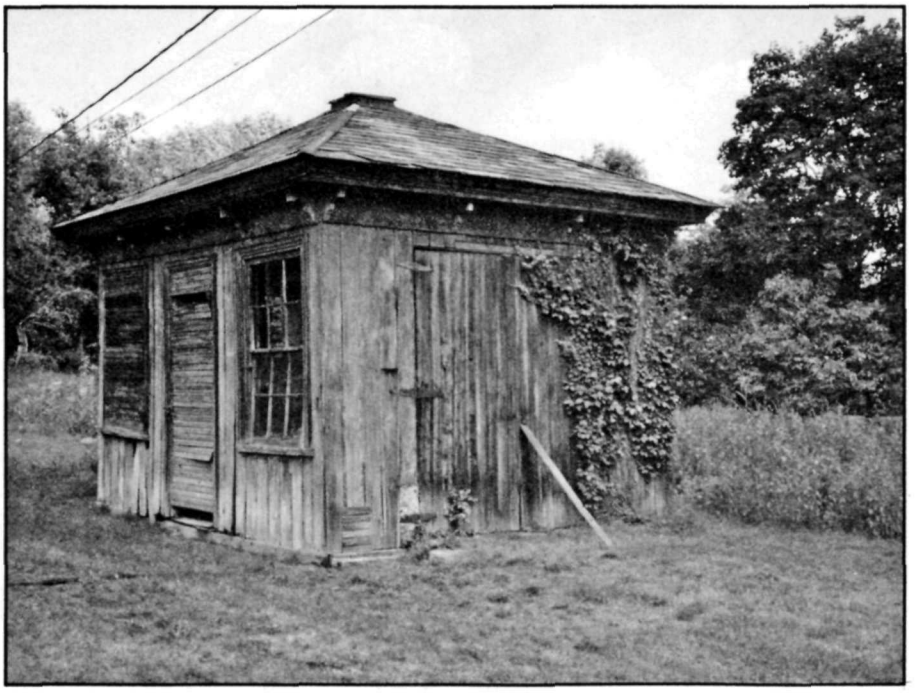


Figure 3.26. Southwest/northwest facades.

Chapter 4:

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF SALTSBURG

INTRODUCTION

Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, is located at the confluence of the Conemaugh and Kiskiminetas rivers in Conemaugh Township, Indiana County. The borough was named after the abundant salt wells in the river valley near the town, and evaporating it subsequently became a mainstay of local industry. Saltsburg's proximity to important water routes, as well as an abundance of other natural resources, prompted it to become an early commercial center between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. With the arrival of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal and later the Pennsylvania Railroad, both of which passed through the center of Saltsburg, the borough achieved the rank of "one of the principal towns in the Conemaugh Valley."[1]

Since a late nineteenth-century economic burst founded on area coal-mining operations, the mid-twentieth century has been one of a comfortable, if static, economy. The local industrial base is aging, however, and the railroad closed in the relatively recent 1950s. The purpose of this study is to chronicle the development of Saltsburg--highlighted by nineteenth-century canal and railroad eras--with an emphasis on the buildings and architectural heritage that remain intact.

LOCATION

Saltsburg is located in the southwest corner of Conemaugh Township, cradled on the eastern shore of a bend of the Conemaught River where it meets the winding Loyalhanna River. The Kiskiminetas is formed by the confluence of the Conemaugh River to the east and the Loyalhanna; it serves as the boundary between Indiana and Westmoreland counties (Figure 4.1).

This hilly, sparsely settled area is part of the fourth great coal basin west of the Allegheny Mountains, and thus it is rich in coal, iron ore, and limestone.[2] Today its valleys and inclines are interspersed with gas wells and strip mines. Saltsburg is situated thirty-one miles east of Pittsburgh and nineteen miles south of the county seat of Indiana; locally, New Alexandria is six miles to the south, and Tunnelton is four miles to the southeast. The borough is accessible only by state roads. Routes 981 and 286 converge at the bridge that crosses the Kiskiminetas River and enter Saltsburg at Washington Street, with the latter thoroughfare continuing northeastward.

[1] Samuel T. Wiley, Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana County (Philadelphia: John M. Gresham and Co., 1891), 217.

[2] Wiley, 218.

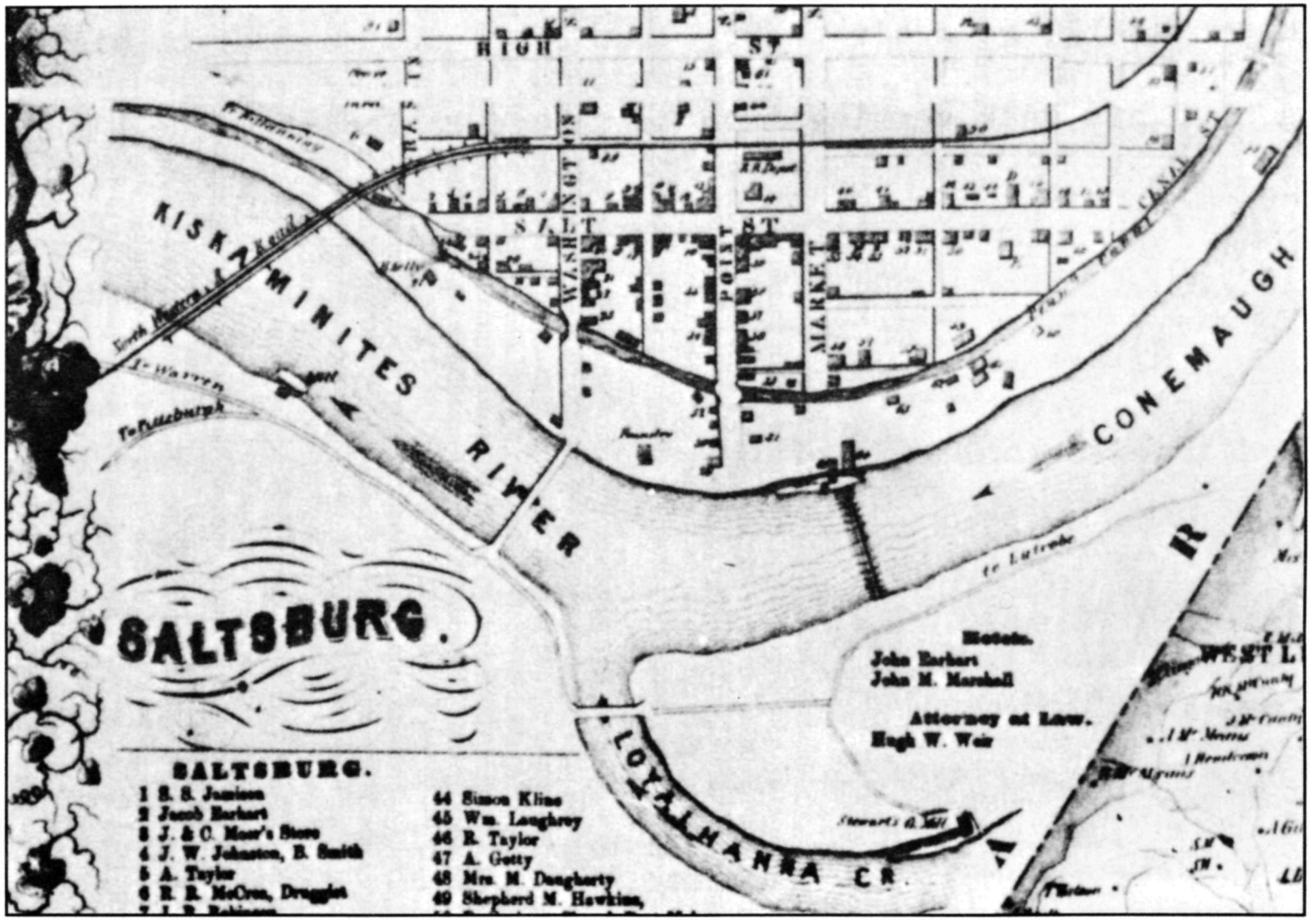


Figure 4.1. The Peelor Map of Saltsburg, 1856, showing the route of the Pennsylvania Canal along the Kiskiminetas and Conemaugh rivers, and north of it the railroad tracks that bend to cross the river.

EARLY SETTLEMENT: 1760s - 1824

One of the first, although temporary, settlers in this portion of Indiana County was Robert Robinson Sr., who built a cabin on the Conemaugh River opposite the town of Coalport in 1766. He soon departed for a homestead property on Robinson's Run near the Armstrong County line.[3]

It was not until 1769, when a law was passed that invited large-scale settlement of the region, that applications were accepted from those willing to survey tracts of land for sale and occupancy. Most of these first arrivals were the Scotch-Irish who came from east of the Alleghenies. The first local-land applicant was William Gray who, on June 20, 1769, documented the parcel that became known as "Gray's Mount" (a portion of this tract later fell into the possession of the Robinson family of Saltsburg). That same year another application was submitted by brothers Hugh and Thomas Wilson, for a large area of land that encompassed both sides of the Conemaugh and Kiskiminetas rivers at the the mouth of the Loyalhanna. They eventually sold some of it to William Johnson, who would become one of the first to make his fortune in salt wells; Johnson, in turn, sold some of this land to his sister, the wife of Andrew Boggs.[4]

As the population increased, so did the need for established political boundaries. In 1807 Conemaugh Township was formed out of Armstrong Township, named after the river that forms its southern boundary.[5] At the time, Saltsburg was located in what was called "Upper Westmoreland."[6] In the first township election, held in spring 1807, Samuel Marshall was voted constable; Robert Fulton and John Matthews, supervisors; Robert Ewing and Thomas Reed, overseers of the poor; and John Marshall and Alexander Thompson, judges.[7]

Andrew Boggs, Johnson's brother-in-law, in 1816-17 laid out the settlement that grew into Saltsburg on a tract known as "the salt works."[8] Boggs then advertised the new town in The American, in which he persuasively stated: "The local situation of Saltzburgh (sic) gives it many advantages, an abundant supply of timber and stone for building purposes, good water and plenty of it, and the town site is two miles from the Conemaugh Salt Works and in view of William Johnston's Mill." Boggs himself certainly found the region advantageous, as he

[3] J. T. Stewart, Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1913), 499.

[4] Stewart, 252.

[5] Stewart, 499.

[6] John A. Bonya, "A Check List of Indiana County's Early Stone Buildings," Indiana County Heritage (Winter 1987-88), 29.

[7] Stewart, 502-503.

[8] Arms and White, 381; Stewart, 253.

owned three fairly profitable salt wells by 1829.[9] By the first official land sale in 1817, it is estimated there were already approximately twelve to fifteen houses, and "in a short time a town began to rise from the woods."[10]

Commerce/Industry

Years earlier, between 1795 and 1798, a local woman discovered along the bank of the Conemaugh River near the future town, a natural resource that would ignite the area's first industry--salt water. Legend says she used it in a palatable mush, and as salt was utilized in large quantities as a food preservative, seasoning, and as a tanning ingredient, it was an expensive commodity. Vast supplies of salt existed in the low lands along the Conemaugh River.

The War of 1812 precipitated a dramatic rise in the price of salt when the British blocked the usual salt-shipping route from New York via Lake Erie to Pittsburgh and points west.[11] This, coupled with its apparent abundance in the area, prompted Johnston, who hailed from Franklin County, to purchase land from the Wilson brothers. He and a partner invested $3,000 in start-up costs to bore a well; the latter deserted the venture only ten days before it came to fruition, and Johnston later sold one-third of his interest for $12,000.[12] His success was repeated by other entrepreneurs, and "very soon the hitherto silent and solitary banks of this river were all bustle, life and enterprise."[13] Enthusiasm generated by the "salt craze," comparable to that of discovering oil, quickly attracted settlers, entrepreneurs, and capital from the East to the burgeoning region near Saltsburg called the Great Conemaugh Salt Works (later White's Station stop of the Pennsylvania Railroad).[14]

The presence of salt was indicated by slightly brackish water oozing out of the rocks; these "salt licks" frequently attracted animals, and therefore hunters. Although easy to locate, early production of salt was time-consuming and expensive to initiate. Holes were bored into the ground using a treadle, the poles connected with open mortise and tongue, and pumping was at first the work of horses. The salt itself was manufactured by boiling salt water in large kettles, the fires fueled with local timber. As prices fluctuated between $5 and $1 a bushel--eventually to be fixed at $2 each--extraction technology improved. Long, deep, shallow iron pans replaced the kettles, coal replaced wood as fuel, and the steam engine was introduced to facilitate boring and pumping--all equipment and ingredients that had to be hauled by wagon

[9] Clarence D. Stephenson, Indiana County 175th Anniversary History (Indiana: A.G. Halldin Publishing Co., 1978), 78; hereafter cited as 175th.

[10] Arms and White, 203, 382.

[11] "1798 Salt Strike led to Birth of Saltsburg," Indiana Evening Gazette (16 April, 1963); Dr. Ernest Coleman, "Western Division Canal Boomed Salt Sales," Canal Currents (Summer 1971), n.p.

[12] Stephenson, 175th, 183.

[13] Stewart, 502.

[14] Stewart, 502, 253; Arms and White, 381.

from Pittsburgh and ferried across the river on keelboats.[15]

Soon, however, the market for salt generated enough revenue to justify the acquisition of more efficient machinery and appliances.[16] Miners and other laborers arrived who were willing to work the sites, as did coopers ready to produce the barrels used to ship the salt south to New Orleans. The excavations quickly proved detrimental to the environment of the Kiskiminetas Valley, however, for according to a report in the American Journal of Science (1827), "Black bituminous smoke rises in clouds over the hills or draws through the dusky valley."[17]

Despite the primitive means of access to Saltsburg, both overland and water, the small cluster of houses and occasional merchants gradually began to resemble a settlement. In 1820 John Williams opened the first tavern in Saltsburg; but discouraged by poor early business, he departed and did not return until after the canal was constructed.[18] One of the earliest gristmills was erected on the Conemaugh River across from Saltsburg, to which settlers within a five- to ten-mile radius packed their grain for processing. Later, an oil mill and still house were erected there; all the mills were powered with overhead wheels equipped with buckets.

Transportation

The rivers at Saltsburg provided the simplest and most expedient means of transportation, compared with hauling wagons along narrow trails, followed by down-river shipping to ports in New Orleans.[19] The first ferry to operate in the vicinity of Saltsburg was on the Kiskiminetas near the junction of the Conemaugh River and Middle Creek. The first proprietor is unaccounted for, but it is known that Andrew Armstrong, a black man, ran a passenger ferry about 1816-17, with fares of 6 cents a person, 10 cents a horse, and 25 cents per horse and wagon.[20] The first bridge in the area, erected by Jacob Weister about 1820, spanned 100 feet across the Loyalhanna Creek.

With crude roads in place, the postal service was not far behind. Mail was delivered for the first time on October 2, 1804, via Armaugh, Beulah, and Conemaugh to Saltsburg; deliveries were made twice a month.[21]

Community

As in most embryonic settlements, the foundations for community development such as formalized religious sects were scarce or limited; education and recreational opportunities were

[15] Stewart, 502.

[16] Wiley, 251.

[17] Coleman, 5-6.

[18] Arms and White, 382.

[19] Stewart, 499.

[20] Stewart, 507.

[21] Stephenson, 175th, 165.

considered amenities if they existed at all. At the first sale of land, one lot was deeded to the Presbyterian church, then the only religious group in Saltsburg. Worshippers existed without much official organization in 1817, when they had to ask a neighboring Presbytery for supplies as well as "application for preaching at the salt works." It was not until 1824 that Reverend Thomas Davis arrived and the formal congregation of the Saltsburg Presbyterian Church was formed.[22]

Saltsburg's first burial ground was located by the river; the second, located adjacent to the first Presbyterian meeting house--a $600 stone church slowly but surely erected between 1820 and 1831--was near the east edge of the town. This half-acre was sufficient until after mid-century, when it was supplanted by the formal Edgewood Cemetery. The stone church served residents until it burned shortly after being completed.[23]

The first school to serve Indiana County was only about one-half mile from the Kiskiminetas River in Conemaugh Township. It is believed to have functioned from about 1777 until at least 1785, in a dwelling owned by Robert Robinson. Students gathered for three hours in the evening, under the tutelage of James McDowell.[24] Informal efforts toward education, with classes held in private homes, would continue for several decades.

CANAL ERA: 1826 - 1864

The first leg of the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal was legislated on February 26, 1826, paralleling the Conemaugh and Kiskiminetas rivers; its operation included sixty locks (excluding four at each end), sixteen aqueducts, 152 bridges, ten river dams, sixty-four culverts, thirty-nine waste weirs, and two tunnels. Between Johnstown and Blairsville the fall in height was about 8 feet per mile, and from the latter to Pittsburgh was about 3 feet per mile. Saltsburg contained one lock, No. 8, located at the north end of Salt Street where it met the Conemaugh River; a second nearby lock, No. 9, was about one mile due east of town (Figure 4.2).

Although the Main Line Canal was authorized in February 1826, construction did not commence until September of that year because of disputes over the route, primarily at the Allegheny River terminus in Pittsburgh. Ultimately, work followed the same pattern as the Juniata Division, the eastern one-third of the canal. The locks measured 90 feet long and 15 feet wide, with the prism measuring 40 feet at the top-water line, 28-feet at the bottom, and 4 feet deep. Here, however, the locks were built of cut stone laid in mortar, as compared with the rubble-stone and wood locks of the Juniata section. "The locks on this line have cast-iron paddle gates, eight to each lock. The time of filling a lock or of discharging the water, where the lift is 8 feet, is about one minute and a half, and a boat can easily pass through in either

[22] Stewart, 252-53.

[23] Stewart, 252-53, 508.

[24] Stewart, 500.

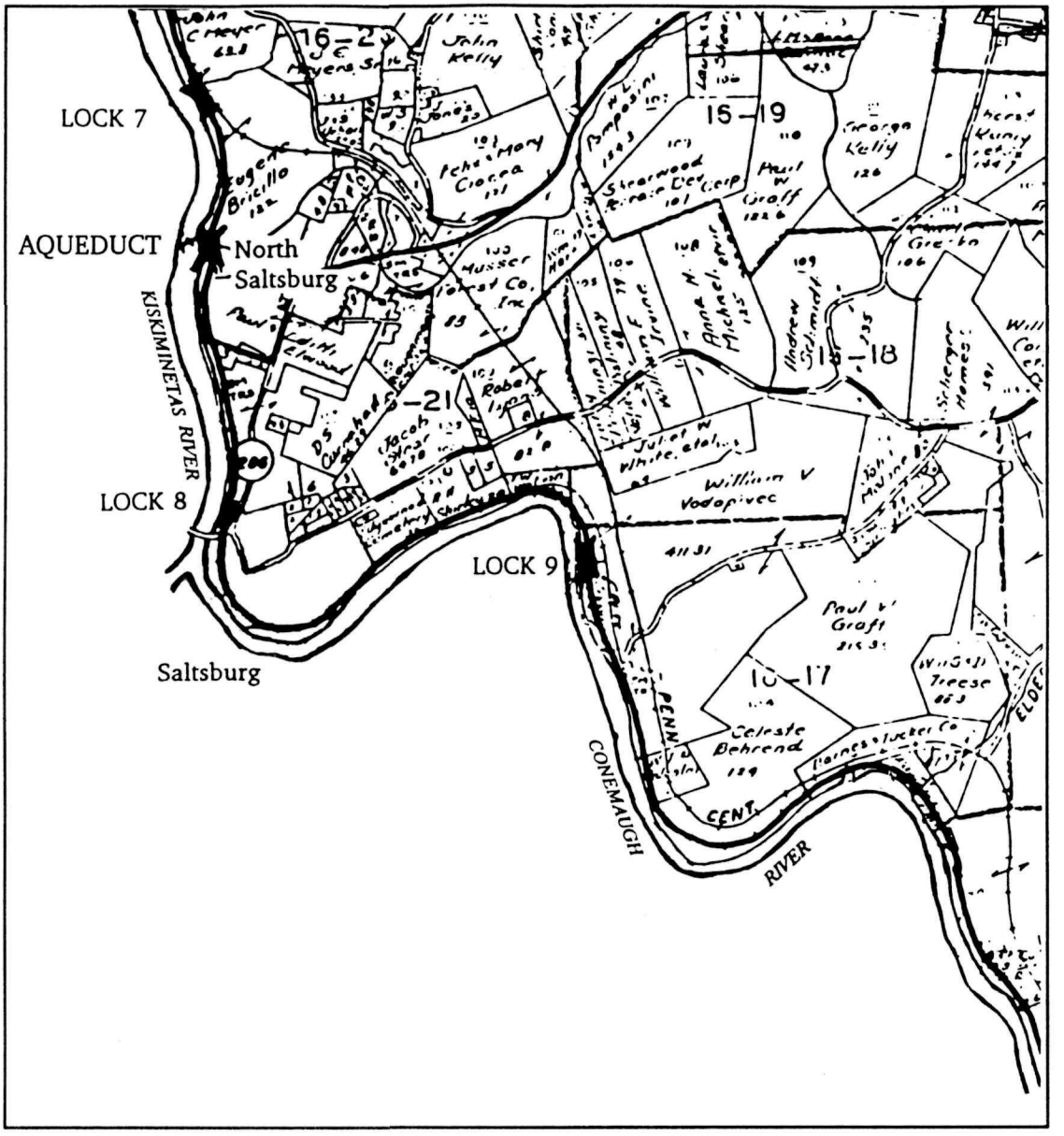


Figure 4.2. Site plan of Saltsburg depicting property lines and the nearby locks, No. 7, 8, and 9, and the aqueduct that carried the Pennsylvania Canal across Black Legs Creek.

direction, in three minutes."[25]

The Pittsburgh terminus of the canal opened in spring 1829, but traffic through Saltsburg was stalled until summertime because of construction on the Conemaugh tunnel and aqueduct. The first two packets through lock No. 8 were the Pioneer and Pennsylvania, on May 15, part of David Leech's line; this company was also one of the last boat lines in service, until 1855.[26]

Wheelwright and chairmaker Samuel Shryock Jamison (1797-1877) was a resident of Indiana, Pennsylvania, from 1818 until 1826, when he "obtained a contract . . . for the construction of a section of the Pennsylvania Canal"; three years later he was named supervisorof the entire Western Division. Lock No. 8 and its boat basin, constructed in 1828-29, are believed to have been the responsibility of two local men, Jacob Drum and John Gamble, about whom little is known for certain.[27]

In 1830 upon overall completion, the Western Division cost $2.9 million to build, nearly twice the original estimate of $1.5 million.[28]

In Saltsburg, the canal caused little disruption in the street pattern aside from the addition of a number of canal bridges. It did, however, attract a cluster of warehouses and businesses near the channel, as well as along the lock and canal basin at the north edge of town. As navigation and trade on the canal grew, real estate adjacent to it became increasingly valuable. Besides the canal proper, the main line also furnished a market for subsidiary ventures: inns and hotels, boat-making and repair, packet-fleet operation, and land speculation.

Each lock required round-the-clock attention by a lockkeeper who lived nearby. Information exists for two keepers of Saltsburg's lock No. 8. James Mears held the position from 1844-46. He was followed by Hugh Kelly, who tended the lock from 1847 until the close of the canal in 1863-64. Kelly was also a grocer from mid-century on, and his store was next to the now-lost residence.[29]

Commerce/Industry

The salt industry continued to flourish, and by 1826 an estimated thirty-five salt works were operating along the Conemaugh and Kiskiminetas rivers. In a few short years salt production climbed from 20,000 barrels annually to 75,000 barrels in 1825 (Figure 4.3). All

[25] Robert McCullough and Walter Leuba, The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (York, Pa.: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973), 52.

[26] George Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," Canal Currents (Spring 1979), 13; McCullough, 164.

[27] Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," 12.

[28] Peter A. Wallner, "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System, 1825-1857," Ph.D. diss. (Pennsylvania State University, 1973), 78.

[29] George Johnson, "Saltsburg Canal People," Canal Currents (Spring 1981), 12-13.

SALTSBURG: POPULATION FIGURES

Year	Population
1840	335
1850	623
1860	592
1870	659
1880	855
1890	900*/1,114
1897	1,000
1909	1,200
1927	2,000

* *1886 and 1891 Sanborn Maps show a population of 900.*
Figures are taken from Wiley, 221, and Sanborn Maps 1886, 1891, 1897, 1909, 1927.

COAL AND SALT PRODUCED IN INDIANA COUNTY, PA.

Year	Tons of Coal	Bushels of Salt
1820	7,000	
1825	20,000	
1830	24,000	
1835	29,000	
1838*	31,000	(1840) 70,890
1845	19,000	(1842) 70,000
1849	15,000	
1857-67	5,000-6,000 annually	

* *This was the peak year for production of coal and salt, after which quantities declined.*
Figures taken from Stephenson, Early Salt Industry of the Conemaugh-Kiskiminetas Valley.

Figure 4.3. Population and coal/salt production statistics

the wells were directly on the line of the canal.[30]

With the Pennsylvania Canal having become the most important influence on Saltsburg after the mid-1820s, one of the earliest associated industries became canal-boat building and service, to the extent that "for several years after completion of the canal, and the opening up of navigation through the main line from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh, no business of any importance marked the history of Saltsburg, save the boat building industry."[31] Founded in 1835-36 by Robert Young, Butler Meyers, and Jacob Newhouse, the first such enterprise attracted a number of craftsmen to town.[32] In 1848, Newhouse lived in a duplex at 803 Water St. (HABS No. PA-5429), which was near his boatyard at the foot of Market Street. This two-story, six-bay frame dwelling, ca. 1833-40, is notable as a "double house," constructed to host two families, although it was only used as such for a short time. "Some of the finest and most symmetrical heavy-freight boats on the canal" were constructed at Newhouse's yard, claimed one early historian; the firm's prosperity lasted until 1863-64 when the canal's demise was imminent.[33]

Another vital canal-related business in Saltsburg was owned by John M. Marshall, who operated a passenger-packet service between Blairsville and Pittsburgh on the main line. He also conducted an overland passenger service, scheduled to connect with canal-boat service, between the towns of Indiana and Saltsburg.[34] To complement his transportation line, Marshall opened one of the first hotels in Saltsburg on Washington Street, the Marshall House Hotel, which outlasted his other ventures.[35]

Catering to passenger travel became a major industrial force along the canal. As settlers moved westward at a steady pace, inns and eating houses came into great demand. One early innkeeper was John Earhart, who previously wagoned on the Old Frankstown Road. His first hotel was later occupied by the Saltsburg Bank; the Earhart House, his second hotel, was a prominent landmark on the corner of Salt Street and Ash Alley for many years.[36] After Earhart's death, his three daughters (Mary Ann, Kate, and Lavinia) operated a hotel on the corner of Salt Street and Ash Alley for many years.[37] Similarly, canal boatman Joseph Anderson operated the Anderson House at Point and Salt streets around 1850; later it became

[30] Coleman, n.p.

[31] Arms and White, 382.

[32] George Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," 31.

[33] Arms and White, 382.

[34] Clarence D. Stephenson, Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties (Marion Center: Author, 1961), p. 14.

[35] George Johnson, Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal (1984), 115.

[36] Arms and White, 390.

[37] Arms and White, 390.

the Central Hotel.[38]

Passenger receipts were secondary to the canal revenue derived from shipping raw materials necessary for industry. Salt, coal, iron, and agricultural products were among the many resources explored and exploited when economical freight shipping became possible. The salt industry continued to flourish despite flooding in 1832 that destroyed several saltworks along the Conemaugh and Kiskiminetas rivers.[39] Saltsburg soon became an ". . . important point on the canal as well as being the center of the salt trade of the county, which in 1842 amounted to 75,000 bushels of that article."[40] Large grain and flour businesses were established that began to tap the agricultural resources. "During a period dating from about 1840, up to the sale of the Main Line Canal," according to one historian, "a large grain commission business was conducted at the place, and commodious warehouse facilities attracted business from a large area of terretory (sic)."[41] One old grain warehouse, near Ash Alley on the old canal bed, survived as a grain warehouse until after the turn of the century.

One of the early gristmills and warehouse facilities for grain processing was owned by Major Francis Laird, a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian who settled in Saltsburg in 1845. At that time he went into a partnership with canal boatman Major J.C. McQuaide and formed Laird and McQuaide. Laird apparently became the sole proprietor of the mill between 1849 and 1885.[42] In 1849 Laird also purchased property at 222 Point St. (HABS No. PA-5421), while McQuaide lived nearer the canal and business community, at 803 Water St.[43]

The Conemaugh River Valley's wealth of iron resources prompted Andrew Steele to construct a foundry in 1850. Two years later he sold the works to Saltsburg residents Rodgers and Lawson.[44] Little is known about the foundry, but in 1851 it remained a small operation employing only two laborers. It was not until 1853, when Valentine Blank joined the business, that it was expanded with an eight-horsepower engine and three laborers to produce stoves, plows, grates, threshing machines, castings, and more for markets throughout Indiana, Westmoreland, and Armstrong counties.[45] Rodgers apparently lived at 103 Point St., close to the foundry that remained active for many years, although it appears to have changed hands prior to 1903 when it was called the Cooper Bros. Foundry and Machine Shop; the buildings

[38] Johnson, Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal, 112.

[39] Stephenson, 175th, 329.

[40] Wiley, 218.

[41] Arms and White, 382.

[42] Johnson, Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal, 115; Arms and White, 388; Wiley, 228.

[43] Deed March 14, 1871; deed February 6, 1850, Volume 16, Page 387.

[44] Stephenson, 175th, 522.

[45] Arms and White, 384; Stephenson, 175th, 523; Stewart, 510.

were removed by 1927.[46] Saltsburg attracted craftsmen as well as merchants, because of its role as a regional canal port and commercial center. In 1832, for instance, chairmaker and painter Johnston S. Robinson came to Saltsburg; in 1871 had maintained a shop in his home at 425 Salt St. (HABS No. PA-5427).[47]

Robinson opened a druggist establishment in 1853, and upon his death in 1888, his son David carried on; the latter was also affiliated with some of the local coal companies, and helped establish the Saltsburg Bank.[48]

Samuel S. Moore opened the first tin and stove business in the borough in 1846 and he was still in business in 1880. About 1871 he erected a building at 222 Point St. (HABS No. PA-5421) that contained both his shop, in a formal glass storefront with its own entrance, and residence, confined to the second floor and accessed by a separate doorway. Notably, the overall character of the two-story, gable-front, frame building is residential rather than commercial. His son, William Moore (born 1810), settled in Saltsburg "when a young man," and he, too, established himself in the tinning trade as "the principal partner in one of the largest and most successful business houses in Saltsburg."[49] The men lived next to each other; the father at 230 Point St., the son at 232 Point St., a typical gable-front frame building erected ca. 1828-49 (HABS No. PA-5416).

James Daugherty came to the borough as a carpenter's apprentice, although he went on to accomplish himself as a cooper, carpenter, and canal workman. He eventually established an eating house and hotel to serve the canal traffic that flowed through town.[50] About 1871 Daugherty rented half the house at 803 Water St. near the canal.[51]

Another well-known Saltsburg industry was carriage manufacturing. The first such establishment was a business founded by Daniel Walter in 1848. The following year the group Row, Clark and Keister purchased stock in the shop, followed in 1850 with acquisition of the lots and buildings.[52] In 1854 Keister retired, and three years later Rowe sold his investment in the company, leaving Hail Clark sole proprietor of the growing business.[53] At 13, Clark worked as a muletender on the canal. He later settled in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and turned to the trade of carriage and harness-making. Clark moved to Saltsburg in 1849,

[46] Deed March 26, 1859, Volume 24, Page 481, Indiana County Court House; Sanborn Maps, 1903, 1927.

[47] Arms and White, 389; F.W. Beers, Atlas of Indiana County, Pennsylvania (NY, 1871-80).

[48] Arms and White, 389; Stewart, 1046.

[49] Arms and White, 382, 393; Stewart, 642.

[50] Stephenson, 175th, vol. 4, 445; Johnson, Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal, 113.

[51] Beers.

[52] Arms and White, 396.

[53] Stephenson, 175th, 573.

where he soon earned the reputation as a skilled mechanic.[54] The carriage trade attracted many proficient craftsmen and their families to the borough. Between 1867 and 1883 Clark employed twenty men to build and repair carriages, wagons, and buggies, as well as related tasks such as trimming, painting, woodworking, and blacksmithing. In 1873 Clark attempted to expand the enterprise--which produced 200 buggies annually, some shipped to Pittsburgh--by constructing repositories in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Butler County. But by 1878 business had fallen off sufficiently to reduce the staff to six men, and abandon both the latter outlets.[55] In its prime, Clark's reputation was that of producing "only the highest class of work." He owned the "largest and most complete establishment of this kind in the county" and, expounded another source, it is "one of the largest and best-equipped carriage factories in the state."[56] By 1913 Clark's two sons, Murray and Ferdinand, were partners in the carriage business, whose buildings were thereafter abandoned and used for automobile storage by 1927.[57]

In 1847 J.R. Reed constructed the borough's fourth tannery between the Conemaugh River and the canal, a move that highlights the growing importance of the canal as a shipping route. (The first two tanneries had been constructed behind the Earhart Hotel on Salt Street; the third tannery, owned by Thomas and John Robinson, was the first to be constructed on the bank of the canal.) Reed managed the business, which produced about 600 tanned hides per year in its thirty-two vats; it operated until sometime between 1880 and 1886.[58]

Other early industries along the Conemaugh River include a sawmill and mill dam located at the foot of Market Street, owned by Hail Clark and sawyer Joseph Andre. The mill contained a shop to manufacture posts for high poster beds.[59] It was followed by canal-era enterprises that included a woolen mill, gristmill, carding machine, and linseed-oil mill.[60] Little information is available about these ventures.

Merchant William McIlwain moved to Saltsburg in 1831 to join his brother Robert, "who had located there in the previous year, in the General Merchantile (sic) business."[61] He operated a store at his residence, 214 Washington St. (HABS No. PA-5424), one of two remaining stone structures in the borough. One of the most traditional early Pennsylvania-style buildings extant, the simple, five-bay, two-story house is constructed of rubble-filled stone

[54] Arms and White, 396; Wiley, 223.

[55] Arms and White, 384.

[56] Wiley, 219, 220.

[57] Stewart, 510; Sanborn Map 1927.

[58] Stewart, 510; Arms and White, 384.

[59] Stewart, 505; Beers.

[60] Arms and White, 395; Beers.

[61] Arms and White, 387.

walls that narrow from banked foundation to the gables. This building is nearly identical to the residence at 105 Point St. (HABS No. PA-5419), built ca. 1830; thus, these may be the two oldest structures still standing in Saltsburg. In 1831 McIlwain moved his business to another structure on Salt Street and ultimately worked forty-four years as a merchant before retiring.[62]

William Sterret came to Saltsburg as an infant in July 1825. Later, he took up the vocation of merchant in firms such as Sterret, Robinson (J.M.) & Company, Sterret and Sandles (William), Sterret and McIlwain (William R.), W.J. Sterret, and in 1876 Sterret and Company; he later served as president of the Saltsburg Bank.[63]

Saltsburg also became home to Dr. John McFarland, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, who settled there in 1836--perhaps to be near his salt well.[64] In 1842 he built the modest two-story, four-bay house at 216 Washington St. (HABS No. PA-5425). McFarland served in state House of Representatives in the 1845-46 term, and later became one of the first directors of the Northern Pennsylvania Railroad. In a local capacity he was president of the county medical society for one term, and was a director of the Saltsburg Academy. In 1871 McFarland established a drug store "on the old stone house corner" at Washington Street, but five years later he moved the business to Salt Street where it remained until his death in 1889. Upon Dr. McFarland's death, his son John R. took over the firm, until 1905 when the store was purchased by an employee, E.E. Goodlin.[65]

Transportation

As the temptation of interior natural resources and their traffic grew more appealing, local transportation routes were improved. A second ferry known to have served Saltsburg was established in 1836 by James Dougherty, who also operated a hotel on the riverbank just above the toll bridge.

The first substantial (toll) bridge across the Kiskiminetas River was undertaken by the Saltsburg Bridge Company, which completed it in 1842-43 at a cost of $10,000. Absalom Woodward was the contractor, Daniel McKean the master carpenter, and John Stoops the master mason for the slender, 400-foot covered wooden span. Timber for the bridge was rafted in by river from Clarion and Jefferson counties, while the stone was quarried from nearby the canal.[66] The structure remained poised atop three stone piers until 1922 when it burned, only to be replaced a year later by an iron bridge.[67]

[62] Bill Wolford, ed., 1987 Canal Days Special Covered Bridge Edition (Historic Saltsburg, 1987), 21-22.

[63] Arms and White, 390.

[64] William H. Egle, An Illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg: Dewitt C. Goodrich and Co., 1876), 792.

[65] Arms and White, 389; Stephenson, 175th, vol. 4, 365; Stewart, 509.

[66] Saltsburg Press (16 April, 1963).

[67] Stewart, 507; Craig Swauger, "Growing Up in Saltsburg," Indiana County Heritage (Spring 1979), p. 15.

In an attempt to further open up western Pennsylvania, the state government constructed a road between the county seat of Indiana and Saltsburg in 1826. Unfortunately these early routes were often little better than widened trails, with surface conditions that varied with the seasons and maintenance. Many of the company-owned turnpikes were never financially successful, and thus their road surfaces were allowed to deteriorate. Nevertheless, the postal service improved markedly with the coming of the canal, for the stage that ran between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh delivered mail to Saltsburg thrice weekly in 1828, and every day by the following year.

Community

With canal construction underway and the noteworthy existing growth, the "Saltsburgh" post office was established in 1828; and the town retained that spelling until 1892 when the "h" was dropped.[68] In 1832 Saltsburg was composed of twenty dwellings, two stores, two taverns, and a Presbyterian Church; thus, by 1838 the town's size warranted incorporation as a borough, which occurred on April 16 of that year.[69] In 1840 the population of Saltsburg had risen to 335, and by mid-century the number of houses had reputedly doubled to forty.[70]

As westward migration continued, a greater diversity of ethnic and religious groups arrived. In the meantime, worshippers did the best they could, as in 1828 when Father Gallitzen celebrated Roman Catholic mass for canal laborers inside the nearby canal tunnel.[71] It was not until a few years after the arrival of master stone mason John Martin in the early 1840s that a Catholic church was constructed.[72] Martin's father had been politically active in Ireland and was forced to flee his country; but upon arriving in Quebec, Canada, he contracted cholera and was nursed back to health by the Catholic Sisters of Charity. As repayment for this debt on behalf of his father, the young Martin donated his construction services to erect St. Matthew's Church in 1847 (HABS No. PA-5436). The church, a modest Gothic Revival brick building three bays wide and four bays deep, remains at its original Cathedral Alley site, which had been purchased by Reverend Michael O'Connor for $1 from nearby resident Mathias Rombach.[73] The bricks were made at a nearby site, and the foundation stones are said to have been left over from the canal construction.[74] When a new Catholic church was built in 1961, this structure was relegated to use as a storage facility.

[68] Mary Johnson, "Post Office Dates to 1828," in "1838-1888" (Supp.) Indiana Gazette (1988).

[69] Thomas Gordon, A Gazetteer of the State of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: T. Belknap, 1832), 403; Stewart, 796.

[70] Wiley, 221; Daniel I. Rupp, The Geographical Catechism of Pennsylvania and the Western States . . . (Harrisburg: John Winebrenner, 1836), 604.

[71] Stephenson, 175th, 291.

[72] Martin's arrival to Saltsburg varies according to the source: It was 1841 according to Arms and White, and 1843, Wiley, 218.

[73] Delia Delfavro, "John Martin was a Builder," in "1838-1988" (Supplement), Indiana Gazette (3 June, 1988).

[74] "1833-1988" (Supplement), Indiana Gazette (3 June, 1988).

Martin erected for himself a house at 502 High St. (HABS No. PA-5422) in 1853-54. Made of wood, ironically, the rectangular, two-story block features unique and lively ornamentation that includes crenellated cresting and exaggerated porch brackets.

Other churches constructed in this period include the frame Methodist Episcopal Church, dedicated in 1841, whose first pastor was Reverend Jeremiah Phillips.[75] Two years later it was joined by the brick Baptist Church, settled by the Reverend Thomas Wedell, and the brick Associate Presbyterian--now United Presbyterian--Church, organized by Reverend Hanse Lee (although its first instituted pastor, Olivor P. Katz, did not appear until 1861).[76]

The Scotch-Irish Presbyterian settlers of Saltsburg were considered hardy and sober citizens who recognized the value of education. One early historian described them collectively as "a brave, determined, self-denying race, by no means deficient in education and love of learning. It is a notable fact that in spelling, penmanship, and accuracy of style and manner, the early records of the townships and county will compare favorably with those of more recent date."[77] While informal classes were held in private homes throughout much of the early nineteenth century, in 1834 the Free School Act paved the way for established (and autonomous) borough and county schools; and, by 1840, Conemaugh Township contained five schools boasting 337 pupils, more than any other township in Indiana County.[78] In 1851-52 the first formal high-school institution opened as the Saltsburg Academy, a two-story brick building atop a raised foundation story with white Greek Revival woodwork that occupies an elevated site at the corner of High and Point streets (HABS No. PA-5433). S.S. Jamison constructed the two-story, gable-front brick building; its $3,300 cost financed by the sale of $25 shares of stock. Incorporating members of the academy included Adam Robinson; merchant William Stewart; J.W. Robinson; Jamison the builder; W.W. Woodend, the Presbyterian minister who later served as principal; craftsman J.S. Robinson; and packet-service owner and local hotelier John Marshall. Seventy-five young pupils whose families paid tuition of $6 to $10 per five-month session attended opening classes in May 1852; girls were instructed on the second floor, boys on the first.[79]

RAILROAD ERA: 1850s - 1954

For ten years the canal and railroad coexisted in Saltsburg (Figure 4.4). The Saltsburg Borough Council approved the right of way for construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks through the borough on June 3, 1854; the same year the state offered the canal for

[75] Stephenson, 175th, 292.

[76] Wiley, 218-19.

[77] Stewart, 794.

[78] Stephenson, 175th, 284; Stewart, 500.

[79] Stephenson, 14.

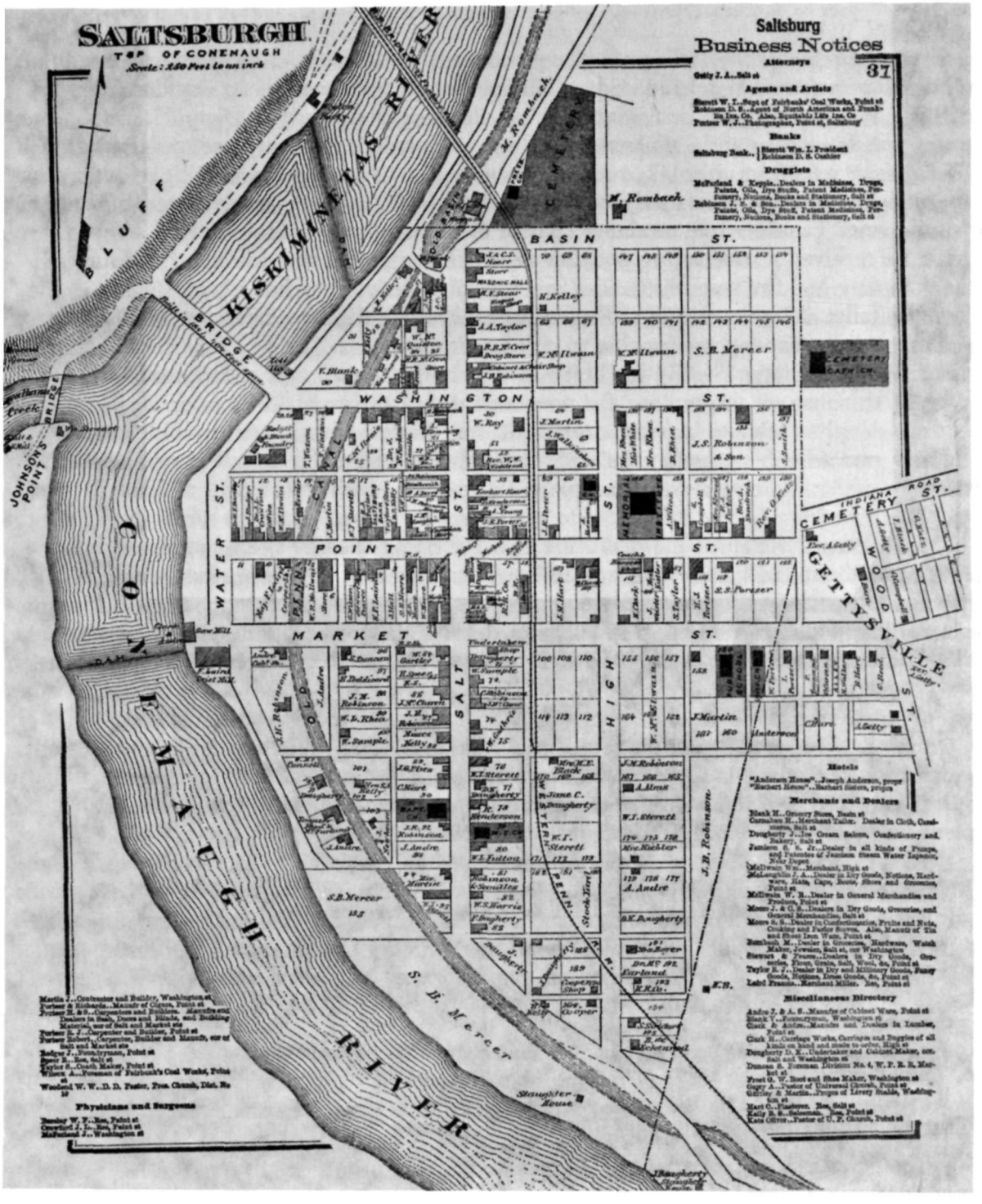


Figure 4.4. Atlas of Indiana County, Pennsylvania (Beers, 1880), showing Saltsburg, ca. 1871, with the "old Pennsylvania Canal" path and the operating Western Pennsylvania Railroad.

sale at a reduced price of $10 million.[80] Shortly thereafter, Samuel Jamison and mason John Martin began to construct the railroad depot facing Point Street parallel to the site of the tracks (HABS No. PA-5437). The rectangular building, highlighted by a low-pitched roof and wide eaves, has been substantially altered over the years and is currently used as the borough office.[81] Jamison rose from a canal contractor to a well-to-do and influential citizen. From 1854 to 1856 he served in the Pennsylvania State Legislature, where he advocated the sale of minor state-owned canals, while retaining control of the debt-ridden main line.[82] About the same time, he received a contracting position near Saltsburg with the railroad, but four years later the company had financial difficulties and all construction was halted; in May 1857 the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. acquired the canal.[83] Although Jamison had completed a portion of his contract, the company was unable to pay for the work, and he was forced to shoulder the financial responsibility. Selling his home in Saltsburg, he returned to Indiana, Pennsylvania, to construct wagons for the government, but discouraged by poor business, he moved to his daughter's home in Iowa. Jamison's son, Benton, purchased the old Saltsburg dwelling and gave it to his parents; the elder Jamison then returned to Saltsburg and spent the remainder of his life farming and completing a few contracting jobs.[84]

The Western Division of the main line was the first closed by the new owner, but for ten years, until about 1864, the canal and railroad co-existed in Saltsburg, dually continuing to encourage settlement and general development of the region. The Portage Railroad section of the main line, which carried canal traffic over the Allegheny Mountains, was almost immediately closed, too, thus severing the link between eastern and western divisions of the canal.[85]

On June 2, 1866, the town fathers approved the railroad's request to fill in the canal bed, which took several years to complete. In early 1872 Saltsburg's lock No. 8 was dismantled and $200 to $300 worth of stone from it was incorporated into the soldiers' monument being erected in Edgewood Cemetery.[86]

Commerce/Industry

In 1861 the struggling salt industry received a serious blow, one compounded by the loss of the canal to provide for economical freighting, when a Conemaugh River flood

[80] George Johnson, "Saltsburg Borough Council Minutes and the Pennsylvania Canal, 1850-66," Canal Currents (Autumn 1979), 6.

[81] Canal Days (Historic Saltsburg Inc., 1984), n.p.

[82] Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," 12.

[83] Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," 6.

[84] Stephenson, 175th, vol. 4, 201.

[85] George Swetman, Pennsylvania Transportation, Pennsylvania Historical Studies No. 7 (Gettysburg: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1968), 57.

[86] Johnson, "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal," 7.

destroyed a number of saltworks near the borough. Due to competition from western states that could transport salt more cheaply via the Great Lakes, a number of these works were never rebuilt.[87] In 1882 the Pennsylvania Railroad moved its tracks from their route between Salt and High streets to the site of the old canal bed near the river; a new station was constructed on Washington Street two years later. The old station on Point Street served as a town hall for many years, then in the twentieth century as an auditorium, a bowling alley and again as the borough offices.

Saltsburg was not permanently affected by the loss of the canal. According to one historian, "The abandonment of the canal and the decline of salt manufacturing retarded the growth of Saltsburg until 1887, when the opening of coal mines and the establishment of other industries gave a new lease of life to the town."[88] William Sterret, for instance, organized the Fairbanks Coal Company in 1866 to extract the valuable bituminous coal deposits that existed in the area.[89] By 1891 an important new industrial base for Saltsburg was underway, with the Fairbanks and the Foster Coal companies two vital businesses in the town. Both were based within one and one-half miles of the borough near the rail line, along which a company-owned fleet of cars facilitated the shipment of coal to a wide range of markets that included Canada. The majority of the 325 miners employed in Saltsburg were American, many of whom owned their own homes. Although wages were not necessarily high, no strikes were recorded during the first twenty-five years of operation. But due to the absence of company stores, "they [the miners] come to Saltsburg for their supplies, and their trade keeps business lively."[90]

As the complexity of coal-mining technology increased, so did the need for professional civil engineers. Robert H. Wilson, who settled in the borough in 1888, proved to be a highly qualified engineer sought after throughout western Pennsylvania. A specialist in the design of water and sewerage systems, and coal mines throughout the bituminous-coal region, Wilson formed a partnership with Albert Smith.[91] The two men served as consulting geologists and engineers, with offices in Saltsburg and Washington, Pennsylvania.[92] The waterworks constructed in Saltsburg between 1891 and 1897 may have been designed by this team. Even as the industrial base shifted from salt to coal, and the railroad superseded canal transportation, an array of traditional merchants continued to flourish in Saltsburg. In 1859 Thomas B. Patton established the second wagon-making business, in a shop that had been constructed as a stable by S.S. Jamison. Originally located near the canal basin, it was

[87] Stephenson, 175th, 523-24.

[88] Wiley, 218.

[89] Gloria Berringer, ed., 1838-1988: Canal Days Sesquicentennial (Historic Saltsburg, 1988), 37.

[90] Wiley, 219.

[91] Stewart, 618.

[92] Wiley, 232.

relocated to the old canal bed near the new passenger depot on Washington Street between 1871 and 1880.[93]

In 1870 butcher William Grabenstein settled in Saltsburg and founded an elaborate pork-packing plant about one-quarter mile from town along the Conemaugh River. He constructed two buildings, in 1873 and 1876, respectively. In 1878 Grabenstein packed 1,200 hogs, using steam power to render lard and cut sausages; the meat, including his "Saltsburg Bologna" was stored in an ice house.[94]

James Hudson purchased property in the borough in 1877, on which he constructed a steam-powered planing mill. He apparently ran "a regular building establishment," which may have been the lumber company near the canal on Market Street; this business closed in 1886 after it was acquired by George B. Davis.

Davis opened a planing mill and lumberyard in 1885 on the site of the Butler Meyers canal boatyard adjacent to the railroad tracks. At 16 Davis became a carpenter's apprentice. He later founded a lumber business in Hills Station, Pennsylvania, but moved to Saltsburg the following year.[95] In 1887 Wilson C. Davis, his brother George, and O.R. Lake organized Davis Brothers and Company, a manufactory of lumber, doors, sash, moldings, and especially stairwork. Its undoubtedly brisk business, thanks to the building boom, is confirmed by one historian: "This firm has a high reputation for high-class work, and the business has shown a continuous increase from the very beginning, occupying a leading place among the important industries of the locality." By 1913 George moved to Idaho, while Wilson remained in town to tend the business; however, by 1903 the structures were used for storage, and shortly thereafter were sold to the Daugherty family.[96]

In 1881 Martin V. Patterson, an experienced contractor, lumberman, and oil-well driller, settled in Saltsburg and opened a flour mill.[97] Four years later he joined John Hershey in a partnership and purchased the Saltsburg flour mill, which may have been the old Laird and McQuaid establishment. This mill was nearly destroyed in the great flood of 1889 that devastated Johnstown, but it was remodeled the following year to include a steam and roller process.[98] Production apparently resumed in 1891, prompting one observer to claim "they have a large trade and manufacture high and fancy grades of roller flour, which they export to some extent beyond supplying the home demand for the same."[99] By 1891 the mill was

[93] Wiley, 20; Beers.

[94] Clarence D. Stephenson, "A Tribute," in 1838-1988 Sesquicentennial, 12; Arms and White, 389.

[95] Stewart, 506; Wiley, 224.

[96] Stewart, 682; Sanborn Maps 1903, 1909, 1927.

[97] Wiley, 228.

[98] Stewart, 802.

[99] Wiley, 228.

producing an estimated 1,050 barrels of flour daily, for which it was considered a "credit to the town."[100] Martin Patterson admitted his son, Harry, into the business in 1903, yet the elder Patterson retained much of the control in the company until his death sixteen years later.[101] The Patterson Milling Company was formed in 1911 after a fire destroyed the 20-year-old mill. A large, much-touted mill with a 125-barrel a day capacity was erected on Point Street near the train tracks around 1913.[102] The building was equipped ". . . with the most approved up-to-date machinery, and operated throughout by electricity. It will be the model establishment of its kind in the region."[103] The building still stands, with the machinery intact.

Businessman James P. Watson, principal stockholder and treasurer of the Saltsburg Glass Company, settled in Saltsburg in 1889.[104] "This company purchased the old Saltsburg Glass Company, and with characteristic energy for which they are now noted, immediately remodeled, enlarged, and improved the works. They now manufacture fine prescription ware and bottles of all kinds." A year later output reached about 100 bottles a day. The firm employed eighty men and boys in the vicinity of Saltsburg, of whom twenty-one were skilled glass blowers.[105] The company apparently changed its name several times; for instance, in 1897 it was the Saltsburg Bottle Works Company, and in 1903 the Saltsburg Flint Bottle Company. It closed around 1907 and soon after disappeared from fire insurance maps. By 1924 another "bottling plant" appears on Water Street, however.[106]

Historic photographs of Saltsburg indicate that commercial structures changed physically from their mid-century appearance. In the early settlement and canal-era, industries were housed in the borough's most formidable buildings. Hail Clark's carriage works, the Davis Brothers' lumber concern, and mills and grain warehouses, for instance--each occupied large buildings of two stories or more. In contrast, stores and similar commercial buildings were based in residential-scale buildings. It is not until the railroad era that commercial buildings were designed to advertise their function. These late Victorian structures featured first-floor display windows in which merchandise was arranged, while upper stories were lit and ventilated through regular bays of tall sash; intricate woodwork demarked facades; and large signs and colorful awnings were designed to catch the eyes of passersby. Merchants added needed storage space within the structure to house the surplus goods of a thriving business. These businesses were primarily clustered along Salt and Point streets, interspersed with older businesses and dwellings. The railroad era marked a period of architectural and spatial changes in the commercial sector of the town.

[100] Wiley, 220.

[101] Stewart, 802.

[102] Stewart, 510.

[103] Stewart, 803.

[104] Stewart, 656.

[105] Wiley, 231, 220.

[106] Saltsburg Press (18 April, 1963), sec. 2, p. 7; Sanborn Maps.

Commercial activity flourished as the number of miners and their families increased, and a number of prominent merchants enlarged established businesses in response to the favorable economic climate. The career of one of Saltsburg's most important businessmen began in 1875 when J.C. Moore became a partner in his father's stove and tin business. William Moore and Son, located on Salt Street, retained a selection of tin, copper, and sheet-iron ware, stoves, grates, and house furnishings, and enlarged the stock to include a selection of hardware, paints, oils, and glass. The firm made "a specialty of tin, iron, slate, and felt roofing and have a renumerative trade that extends beyond Saltsburg and the limits of the county," attested one historian.[107] After his father's death in 1891, the younger Moore renamed the business the J.C. Moore Cash Hardware Store, and again sixteen years later, to J.C. Moore Supply Company.[108] The structure was among a number of Saltsburg buildings that burned in 1981.

In 1875 the Saltsburg Press reported that a new dry-goods shop was opening in town. H.J. and S.S. Porster were local contractors, carpenters, house and sign painters, and dealers in such products as lumber, sash, doors, hardware, and paints. Their business was based in two large, three-story buildings and employed several workmen:

> The most notable building in progress now is that on Point Street between Canal and Salt Streets, where Messrs. H. & S. Porster have the contract for putting up a frame building two stories high, 36' front by 76' in depth, for the firm of Messrs. H. & S. Porster. The first story will be occupied by the above firm as a dry goods, hardware, provision and grocery store, and as this firm is connected with the Fairbanks Coal Works, employing over 100 laborers, and they furnish these laborers and their families with the various articles kept in their store, it would seem that they require larger accommodations than those they have at present. The second story front will be used for storage.[109]

Local merchant William McIlwain (probably the son of an earlier merchant of that name) owned a large store along the canal by 1871. He had purchased the lot and warehouse across the alley in 1868, and apparently rented the property to G. Wilson in 1871.[110] Across the street at No. 222 is a large Victorian-style store (HABS No. PA-5432) run by P.D. Shupe. It features decorative woodwork and an elaborate storefront with full-height windows through which the interior mezzanine could be viewed. The second floor was called Armory Hall, and served as the meeting place of Company "B," Tenth Regiment National Guard. This structure is in very good condition today.

As the borough became more affluent it soon was apparent that a financial institution

[107] Wiley, 227.

[108] Stewart, 509.

[109] Saltsburg Press (18 April, 1963), 5.

[110] Deed June 11, 1868, Volume B34, Page 489, Indiana County Courthouse; Beers.

was needed. William Sterret had organized a bank in his own home as early as 1866, to handle money for the miners in the Fairbanks Coal Company.[111] But banking needs were sufficient by 1871 to warrant establishing the Saltsburg Bank. At first housed in a wing of saddler and canal-boat captain Robert J. Taylor's home at 211 Point St. (HABS No. PA-5420), four years later the First National Bank of Saltsburg moved into a small but eclectic new building across the road at 214 Point St. (HABS No. PA-5431). Both edifices are extant. The Saltsburg Press described the latter building:

> First in importance and architectural taste, is the neat and attractive structure being erected by the contractor, Mr. James Hudson, for the Saltsburg Bank. It adjoins the building of Messrs. S & R, is built of brick, two stories, having an ornamental iron front. It is rapidly progressing toward completion, and will be ready for occupancy, by the banking institution, by the first of October.[112]

A banquet celebrating its opening was held at the Earhart Hotel, though records indicate that the bank didn't own the lot until three years after the building was constructed. An addition was made to the rear of the building between 1886 and the year it failed, 1890.[113] Today the building remains largely intact.

The borough's second bank, Farmer's and Merchant's Bank of Saltsburg, was established in 1875. This institution was housed in the Central Hotel on the corner of Point and Salt streets, where the facade woodwork was completed by H. and S. Porster, and the painting on the door executed by I.S. Porster.[114] In 1882 it was reorganized as the First National Bank, and the organization moved in 1893 from the Central Hotel location to the Point Street building that housed the recently failed Saltsburg Bank. This institution flourished and, in 1927, moved again to a new building erected on the site of the Central Hotel; in 1967 the name was changed to the Savings and Trust Company of Pennsylvania.[115]

Community

Economic pursuits did not overshadow spiritual, mental, and physical maintenance of borough residents. In 1869 Reverend Andrew Getty, a canal boatman, teacher, and Universalist minister settled in Saltsburg. He and the fifteen-member Universalist congregation constructed a church on Market Street near his home in the following year.[116] By 1903, however, the building was no longer being used as a church, and may have been occupied as a school. (Getty supplemented his income with a steam-flouring mill he constructed in 1879

[111] Ann Palmer and Patricia Miller, "A History of Saltsburg's Banks," 1838-1988 Sesquicentennial, 36.

[112] Saltsburg Press (18 April, 1963), 5.

[113] Palmer and Miller, 37, 39; Sanborn Maps 1886, 1891.

[114] Saltsburg Press (18 April, 1963), reprint from "A Monster Safe," Saltsburg Press (24 November, 1875).

[115] Stewart, 510; Palmer and Miller, 37.

[116] Arms and White, 392.

"on the hill.")

The United Presbyterian congregation constructed a new $3,000 church on High Street near the Saltsburg Academy in 1870 (HABS No. PA-5434). The "neatly furnished" new structure was a small, one-story, gable-front frame building with few modest decorative features. The building continued to be owned by the church until 1984, when it was purchased by the Williamson Club, which uses it as a masonic lodge.[117]

The long-established Presbyterian Church was forced to construct a new house of worship in 1874, one year after its small church on the north edge of town was evaluated as unsafe. During the yearlong construction, religious services were held in the nearby Saltsburg Academy building. The building, at the corner of Salt and Washington streets, cost $27,765. The formal, Gothic-styled edifice was described at the time as ". . . one of the most substantial brick and stone structures in this part of the state. . . The windows are modern in style and filled with a good quality of stained glass, while the main window is large, of beautiful design and yet unpretentious. The spire is justly regarded as very beautiful."[118]

Early in the nineteenth century Lutheran families from eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Germany arrived and settled in Indiana County. A group from the Sons of Zebedee Evangelical Lutheran Church settled in Saltsburg and built a meeting house on Salt Street just north of Washington Street in 1878 (HABS No. PA-5435). This simple yet textural Carpenter Gothic-style church is brick, designed on a three-bay by five-bay rectangular plan with a center steeple, pointed-arch windows, and patterned slate roof.

After the turn of the century, it became obvious that the small Presbyterian cemetery was inadequate. The Edgewood Cemetery Company was formed in 1868 to oversee the development of a ten-acre burial ground on the east edge of Saltsburg. J.E. Robinson and S.S. Portser laid it out along strict right angles with a system of streets, with the centerpoint marked by Soldier's Monument, a great 25-foot sandstone obelisk.[119]

Education in Saltsburg continued to grow as a priority throughout the nineteenth century. In 1869 the Presbyterian Church acquired the Saltsburg Academy, renovated and refurbished the building, and rededicated it as the Memorial Institute on April 3, 1871. As the turn of the twentieth century approached, the former academy building served as one of three public-school facilities in the county. From 1890 until 1912, when a large new school was constructed on Market Street between Poplar and Pine alleys, the old academy served as part of the public school system; thereafter it was used privately, at first as A.E. Ray's carpentry shop.[120] Its cupola and some porch elements are missing today, but the building largely retains its form and integrity.

[117] Pennsylvania Historic Resources Inventory form.

[118] Stewart, 253-55.

[119] Stewart, 508.

[120] Stewart, 225, 253; Arms and White, 384.

Another school got its start in 1879 when John Martin began to construct a hotel for what was intended to be a summer resort. Nine years later he sold the hotel to A.W. Wilson, a businessman from Indiana, Pennsylvania. In 1890 Wilson and his son, Harry, were partners in the Indiana Gas Company, which piped natural gas near Saltsburg. Wilson, of whom it was said, "from his boyhood was deeply impressed with an appreciation of the priceless value of education," utilized personal funds to procure the hotel and surrounding land, thus enabling another son, A.W. Wilson Jr., and R.W. Fair to open in 1889 what became the Kiskiminetas Spring School.[121] Wilson Jr., a graduate of Princeton University, and his sister Ella, who graduated from Vassar College, joined the faculty.[122] A year later the private boys school was expanded with the construction of a brick building to house a gym, chapel, classrooms, and dormitory space sufficient to house twenty-eight pupils; a total of eighty boys were enrolled and resided in both buildings.[123] W.H. McColl joined the partnership in 1902; in 1913 Fair retired, and a year later the school grew again, to include the estate of Captain Reese. The school, which now encompassed about 200 acres and another brick house, boasted twelve teachers and 130 students.[124] It remains a private boys' school today.

Early twentieth-century maps of Saltsburg indicate three separate public school buildings. The old Saltsburg Academy building on High Street, a small structure on the corner of Market Street and Pine Alley that may have been the former Universalist Church, and a third facility on a lot between Poplar and Pine alleys. This last structure, erected prior to 1871, was a two-room schoolhouse with classrooms on the first and second floors. It was used as such until 1912 when a new brick structure--"modern in every particular"--was constructed on that lot.[125] It housed 458 pupils the year following its construction.[126] In general, the collective development of public and private schools in the area meant that "for many years Conemaugh Township stood in the first rank along educational lines."[127]

Prior to the turn of the twentieth century, the medical profession in Saltsburg consisted largely of individual practices in small, residential offices. In 1909, however, Indiana County native Dr. E. Bruce Earhart established the Saltsburg General Hospital in the sprawling former residence of merchant Mathias Rombach on the west edge of town (HABS No. PA-5430). Built ca. 1838-50 as a traditional five-bay, L-plan, additions after 1871 include four primary bays and a second ell (that transformed the building into a U-shaped plan) and two Italianate porches. As a medical facility, it:

[121] Stewart, 510.

[122] Stephenson, 175th, 475.

[123] Wiley, 220.

[124] Stewart, 511.

[125] Stewart, 226.

[126] Stewart, 509.

[127] Stewart, 500.

> was promptly recognized as an important acquisition of the town, being equipped with all the modern appliances for the treatment and care of the sick. It has accommodations for thirty-five patients, and has been a success from the beginning. This institution has given Dr. Earhart an opportunity to do justice to his surgical cases, in which he has been eminently successful, his reputation in that branch being particularly creditable.[128]

The hospital may have closed in 1915 when Earhart died. Due to disinterest in the estate and its failure to sell at auction, the property was privately sold to Elvira E. Earhart, a relative.[129]

There is scant evidence of community organizations in Saltsburg. The National Guard was organized in 1878 by Major R.J. Irwin, and became active the following year. Its headquarters was located on the second floor of William McIlwain's general store at 202 Point St. from at least the 1880s through 1909: "The 'Armory' of the company is arranged in modern style, with all the conveniences that are strictly necessary. There are sixty-two cases or wardrobes, in which each soldier places his clothes, arms and equipments."[130]

CONCLUSION

When the railroad tracks through Saltsburg were abandoned about 1954, an important tradition that had lasted more than 100 years came to an end. The once-important route was reduced to a grassy strip atop the old canal bed and rail path. Since then, a large percentage of the town's historic building stock has been lost. Despite a modest but stable economy, the town is fortunate to retain a significant number of historic structures that are largely intact and that reflect the architectural and cultural heritage of Saltsburg.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Saltsburg represents a well-preserved southwestern Pennsylvania town, founded in the mid nineteenth century and rapidly developed upon discovery of vast mineral salt resources, a commodity that contributed to the implementation of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, from which the town then prospered. It is significant for its association with the heyday of the canal during mid-century, and its usurper, the railroad, as well as the early industry of salt extraction--and all related architectural resources. Saltsburg is fortunate to retain an array of buildings from the late 1820s through the 1880s--residential, commercial, civic, church--that reflect the town's historic vitality as a commercial center along the nation's first major inland east-west transportation route. For this reason the buildings and structures extant in Saltsburg should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

[128] Stewart, 635.

[129] Deed May 6, 1915, Volume 146, Page 202, Indiana County Courthouse.

[130] Arms and White, 386.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM STEWART HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5416

Location: 232 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Savings and Trust Company of Indiana.

Present Use: Vacant; the structure had been scheduled for demolition until Historic Saltsburg Inc. persuaded the bank to halt the action. As of June 27, 1988, demolition action was suspended; the building is being relocated and a parking lot will be built on the site.

Significance: The structure is a typical, mid-nineteenth-century vernacular dwelling representative of those occupied by Saltsburgers associated with the commerce introduced to the town by the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal in 1828.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1828-49, according to tax records.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Deeds referenced are located in the Recorder of Deeds Office, Indiana County Courthouse, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1827 Deed December 11, 1827, in Volume 9, Page 58.
Amos Lawrence
TO
William Stewart ($50, no buildings mentioned)

1849 Deed August 25, 1849, in Volume 16, Page 196.
William and Rachel (Robinson) Stewart
TO
Samuel Moore (for $700, "with all and singular the buildings improvements")

1854 Deed April 27, 1854, Volume 20, Page 173.
Samuel Moore
TO
Jane (Robinson) Moore

1884 Will Book (citation not given)
Jane Moore (died 1/13/1884)
TO
Rachel Moore (daughter)

1918 Deed May 18, 1918, Volume 164, Page 161.
Rachel Moore
TO
M.L. Thounhurst

1919 Deed August 14, 1919, Volume 180, Page 89.
M.L. Thounhurst
TO
Pearl Katherine Thounhurst

1926 Deed September 3, 1926, Volume 239, Page 18.
Pearl Katherine Thounhurst
TO
Anna B. Robinson

1937 Deed July 14, 1937, Volume 288, Page 62.
Grantors Ernest S. Kelly and John E. Johnston, executor for Anna B. Robinson (died 9/19/1936)
TO
Carrie Fink

1958 Deed March 22, 1958, Volume 470, Page 62.
Grantor Dora Fink, administrix for Carrie Fink (died 12/11/1957)
TO
Rose A. Fink

1967 Deed July 29, 1967, Volume 567, Page 478.
Rose A. Fink
TO
Harry E. Hess

1974 Deed July 29, 1974, Volume 667, Page 374.
Harry E. Hess
TO
Harry E. and W. Patty Hess

1985 Deed November 15, 1985, Volume 884, Page 851.
Harry E. and W. Patty Hess
TO
Harry E. Hess

198- Deed citation not given
Harry E. Hess
TO
Savings and Trust Company of Indiana

3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. The floor plan on the interior has been greatly altered, however, while the exterior gable-front, rectangular form retained its original form prior to the aborted demolition.

4. Alterations and additions: The rear addition telescopes out, slightly narrower than the main block; constructed between 1871 and 1886, it was originally a single story. The bracketed front porch, which was removed during the initial stages of demolition, appears to have been constructed during this period.

Between 1903 and 1909, a second story was appended to the rear addition. The three-part bay (by definition, this feature is an oriel, because it is suspended from the structure of the main block without benefit of a foundation; its form, however, is consistent with that of a bay) on the first floor of the west side wall was probably also installed at this time. A rectangular three-part bay was added to the second floor approximately above it, indicating the likely installation of a bathroom at this time (Sanborns). This may be the period in which the house was divided into a two-family dwelling. The pantry appears to have been built ca. 1909-27 (Sanborns, Beers).

Interior alterations identified in the floor plan and other sections of this report are based only on physical evidence and were not documented with any written resources, existing drawings, plans, or other visual material.

Interior and exterior alterations due to the immediate demolition are apparent in the accompanying photographs.

B. Historical Context: A construction date between 1828 and 1849 places the building during the period of dominance in Saltsburg of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, and perhaps concurrent with its opening. The canal was completed through the town in 1828, and with it came a boom in industry and commerce throughout the Conemaugh Valley region.

The building at 232 Point St. has historically always served as a dwelling. William Stewart was the first owner of the property, and the builder of the house. He was one of the investing founders of the Saltsburg Academy (Arms and White, 384), and was a partner in Stewart, Robinson & Co., a general store on Point Street (Stewart, 505). Stewart married Rachel Robinson, a member of the prolific Robinson family of Saltsburg. In 1849, Stewart sold the property for $700 to local businessman Samuel Moore.

Moore was the first tinsmith and stove merchant in Saltsburg in 1846, a business that he maintained until at least 1880 (Arms and White, 382). Moore also owned a shop on Salt Street where he sold confectioneries, fruits, nuts, and cooking and parlor stoves (Beers, business notices). In 1854 his daughter-in-law, Jane (Robinson) Moore who married his son William, purchased the house. William apparently apprenticed under his father and likewise operated a stove and tin business. When William's son, James Moore, became a partner in 1875, the shop was expanded to include a supply of hardware (Wiley, 227) and was renamed. The new William Moore and Son shop was described as "one of the largest and most successful business houses in Saltsburg." James Moore took over management of the business upon his

father's death in 1892 (Stewart, 642). When Jane Moore died on January 1, 1884, she left the house to her daughter, Rachel Moore, who sold it out of the family in 1918.

The property then fell to a half-dozen later owners. The Fink family occupied it for forty years, followed by the Hess family from 1967 until it was taken into the possession of the Savings and Trust Company of Indiana.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The structure is a three-bay, two and one-half story, gable-front, frame dwelling whose vernacular styling is limited to such modest Greek Revival features such as a side-hall plan, raked cornice, a pedimental attic vent, and simple framing of doors (with transom) and windows.

2. Condition of fabric: The overall condition of the building is poor, based on observation and the results of recent demolition efforts. The exterior clapboards are in good condition but the roof requires repairs. Foundation bricks need to be replaced.

The interior has been altered considerably, and wallboard has been used throughout the house. Only one fireplace remains exposed and it was largely removed during the demolition; the mantel and fireplace surround are intact.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main rectangular block is 18' x 32'; a narrower rectangular addition on the rear measures 14' x 16'.

2. Foundation: The foundation of the north facade is brick laid in five-course American bond, with a cut-stone footing. The foundation throughout the rest of the structure is random-sized stone. It is slightly banked.

3. Walls: The wood-framed walls are covered with various widths of clapboards; some original, while others relate to various stages of remodeling. The weatherboards on the front/north facade are exposed 5-3/4"; the east facade are exposed 7-1/2".

4. Structural systems, framing: The studs of the wood-frame building--exposed when the front porch was removed--possess reciprocating saw marks. A ridge pole is found in the roof of the main block. The gable roof of the rear lacks a ridgepole.

5. Porches: The porch on the main facade was removed prior to its documentation, but a photograph taken of the building shows a full, raised, one-story porch with bracketed cornice and a Victorian balustrade in which the ballusters were cut with a jig saw.

6. Chimneys: There are two chimneys; the first is nearly mid-point on the ridge of the main block, constructed of brick, and built on a stone base. This chimney mass may contain four flues, but only one fireplace is currently exposed. The second chimney is located inside the south wall of the addition, and appears to have at one time been connected to a stovepipe.

The hearths on the first floor are supported by planks planed using power machinery, that flank the chimney mass, and are held in place with large, wooden pegs. Currently, only the fireplace in the front room remains unobstructed; the mantel and chimney surround were removed during the initial stages of demolition.

7. Openings: At the first-floor level there were originally no exterior openings on either the east or west walls due to the proximity of the surrounding buildings. The only sources of natural light and circulation were likely at the front and rear of the house.

a. Doorways and doors: Both front and rear doorways in the main block contain transoms and are located in the westernmost bay on axis with each other. The transom in the former was removed during the initial demolition; the one above the latter was boarded up long ago. The front entrance contains a door with fixed, single-light glazing on the top half, with two panels on the lower half.

The rear door contains two upper glazed panels and two lower wood panels. A sheltered entranceway exists in the southeast corner of the structure; here the second floor projects over the rear door, a second door in north wall of the rear addition features four panels, and a set of stairs leading to the ground.

b. Windows: The predominant window type is two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash. The exceptions on the first floor are the front facade, where a picture window was installed in the two easternmost bays, and a floor-to-ceiling bay on the east facade (installed between 1903 and 1909) of the rear room of the main block.

The only windows that appear to be intact are in the east wall of the kitchen on the second floor, and in the south wall of the basement in the addition, near the southeast corner. These are six-over-six-light sash with wood-pegged frames. Their construction may indicate that the second-story portion of the kitchen predates the window changes in the first half of the twentieth century.

An opening for a small pantry located on the rear addition corresponds with the basement storage area, located on the west wall near the southwest corner. The pantry is equipped with a window.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: The wood cornice and raked eaves are unembellished.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. Cellar: The floor plan is composed of a large rectangular main space with a smaller rectangular addition on the rear. The basement area is open, for the most part, except for the base of the chimney mass located centrally in the main block.

b. First floor: The main block is divided into two rooms of approximately the same size; the front space located in the two western bays separated from the stair by a wall, and the rear room comprising the full width of the building. Doorways exist between the rooms in the main block and the single space in the rear addition. The rear addition is slightly narrower than the main block and telescopes out from it.

The original chimney mass is nearly centered in the main mass. Beyond the main entrance lies a stairwell and what was probably a side hall leading to the rear of the building; the hall currently terminates at the rear of the staircase.

A small, three-sided enclosure is attached to the exterior of the west foundation wall of the addition. This enclosure is not accessible from the interior and was apparently constructed as a storage space of some sort.

c. Second Floor: The second floor has been most affected by reorganization alterations to accommodate two living units. In perimeter, the plan reflects the first-floor arrangement of front room, back room and rear addition. The original side-hall plan along the east wall of the main block, although somewhat modified, is largely retained as the front-to-back passage through the building. It appears that the inner wall of the hall was pushed west toward the center of the building to convert the building into a two-family unit. A later partition was erected at the head of the stairs, which forced a visitor to turn 90-degrees at the top step to enter the hall. When the interior hall wall was moved, the room entrances may have changed, which accounts for the irregular angle of the door to the front room at the head of the stairs; a closet has been constructed adjacent to it, perhaps in an attempt to disguise this awkward intersection. Directly behind the stair partition, a small rectangular room was created using space from on top of the first-floor bay; a bathroom was installed utilizing a portion of the hall, as does a small kitchen. The door to the hall was moved so close to that of the rear room that the molding was sawn, width-wise, nearly in half to butt against the undisturbed door.

There are various storage spaces in each room. One is directly

above the main entrance and another is in the rear room adjacent to the chimney mass. The last closet was built on the rear (south) wall of the addition in the southwest corner.

d. Third floor/attic: The space is open except for the chimney mass.

2. Stairways: An exterior staircase leading from the basement up to the first story is located in the southeast corner, partially against a small section of the foundation wall of the main block; it contains 10 risers. The front stairs from the first to the second floor (SW corner) contain fourteen, 7" treads with a landing at the top and a one-step turn into the hallway. The rear stairway between these two floors has twelve risers. The rear staircase that leads from the second floor to the attic has ten risers. A narrow, enclosed staircase leading to the second floor is located on the west wall of the addition where it intersects with the main block.

3. Flooring: The rooms in the main block of the house are floored with 6-1/2" to 7" wood flooring, except the bathroom and the former kitchen on the second floor, which are covered with tile and linoleum, respectively. Square-headed nails can be seen in the floor on the first story. The flooring in the addition is less regular, ranging in widths of 3-1/2" to 5-1/2", and kitchen carpeting covers the floor of the pantry. The attic is partially floored with wood boards. Floorboards throughout the structure run in a north-south direction and are largely painted brown. The saw marks in the basement of the main block were made using power machinery; bridging is located between the floor joists to reduce movement and noise.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: The walls are generally covered with contemporary wood wallboard. The exceptions include: the kitchen walls in the rear addition, which are plastered; the stairwell in the rear addition, which is covered with vertical matchboard; the fireplace walls in both first-floor rooms of the main block, which are covered with what appears to be the original plaster; and the walls of the second-floor bathroom, which are covered with a stained plywood. The walls in the pantry are covered with beadboard, and the exterior wall in the main stairwell is covered with cardboard; the wall surfaces behind these substances are unknown.

The ceilings are, for the most part, covered with wallboard. The exceptions include: the kitchen ceiling, which is covered with plaster; the first-floor bathroom, which is drywall; and the second-floor bathroom ceiling, which is covered with square panels. The machine-cut lath was exposed in a section of the ceiling in rear room of the main block.

The basement in the main block is unfinished. The walls and ceiling in the basement of the rear addition are covered with tongue- and-grove matchboard. The attic ceiling is unfinished.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Most of the doors on the first floor have been removed, except the trio of four-paneled doors in the addition that lead to the basement stairwell, the stairwell leading to the second floor, and the door leading to the pantry.

The doors on the second floor are mostly four paneled. The doorways in the hall that define the kitchen are empty, as is the doorway leading to the back bedroom from the hall. The most notable example is a pegged, six-panel, cross-and-bible-style door. It leans against the fireplace wall in the rear room of the main block, and had been at one time pieced to fit an unknown, larger opening.

Trim on the windows and doors can be divided into three categories: Greek Revival (profile B), Victorian (profile A), and later additions with no dominant profile. The Greek Revival trim, which is probably the original, is found on the first floor on the front door, on the doorway between the front room and the rear room of the main block (molding is intact and surrounds both sides of the opening); on the second floor in the closet in the rear room of the main block; and on the door leading from the remodeled hall into the rear addition.

The Victorian trim that was probably added during one of the remodelings is found on the doorways of the following first-floor rooms: outside of the bathroom doorway, and the three doors in the rear addition, except the stairwell door. On the second floor, it is used on the door between the rear room in the main block and the hallway, and on the doorway between the rear room and the addition. The remaining doorways either posses no trim or trim that can be categorized as miscellaneous.

The south foundation wall of the main block contains a door slightly west of center that leads into the basement of the addition; in the basement of the addition there is an exterior door nearly centered on the east wall.

b. Windows: The window trim--like the door trim--may be categorized as Greek Revival (profile B), Victorian (profile A), and miscellaneous. There is Greek Revival trim on the second floor surrounding the original window in the kitchen and two windows on the exterior wall in the rear room of the main block.

On the first floor the Victorian window trim is on the three-part bay and on the windows in the addition. The second-floor windows featuring this trim are in the front room and on the west window of the rear addition near the southwest corner. The remaining windows possess no trim or miscellaneous trim from later renovations.

The south wall of the foundation in the main block contains a window near the southwest corner of the structure; in the addition basement there's a window on the south wall near the southeast corner.

6. Decorative features: There is a curve at the top of both sides of the interior

stairhall wall. The fireplace in the first-floor front room was converted to a coal hearth sometime in the late nineteenth century. At this time the incised, stone fireplace surround may have been added, along with the decorative colorful, tiled hearth. The surround and mantel, although disassembled, were not removed from the house during the initial stages of demolition. A built-in, floor-to-ceiling cupboard remains in the fireplace wall of the rear room of the main block near the doorway leading to the front room. The doors in the cupboard are paneled and possess simple latches. A section of baseboard that appears to be contemporary with the Victorian door and window trim (profile A), was located in the rear room of the main block. A section of early baseboard is located in the former kitchen.

7. Hardware: The three doors on the staircases in the rear addition are equipped with early latches that feature a decorative plate, a small moveable bar, and a small inverted, U-shaped latch. On the other side of the door, a simple handle with a thumb latch lifts the bar and opens the door.

8. Mechanical equipment:

 a. Heating, air-conditioning, ventilation: Originally the structure was heated with wood fireplaces, which were at some point modified to burn coal. Apparently a stove was added in the rear addition. The structure is currently heated with an oil furnace.

 b. Lighting fixtures: The two most notable light fixtures are in the rooms on the first floor of the main block. They are chandeliers with a center "hub" and five sockets on arms radiating from the center. Decorative trim with classical motifs are strung between each socket.

 c. Plumbing: The structure is fitted with running water and up-to-date bathroom facilities.

9. Original furnishings: Wallpaper samples can be examined behind the fireplace surround in the front room on the first floor, and on the pantry wall. On the first floor the ceilings of the original block are covered with an embossed wallpaper that has been painted. A thin band of molding, similar to sections found in the attic, remains in place at the base of the curve on the interior wall of the entrance hall. A number of decorative floor grates located throughout the house may have originated in the stores of owners Samuel or William Moore.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The William Stewart House faces roughly north on to Point Street. Originally the Central Hotel stood directly east of it; when the First National Bank (now the Savings and Trust Company of Indiana) was construct-

ed on the hotel site in 1927, the emphasis was changed to face on to Salt Street. The streetscape, which had previously consisted of a number of two-story residences constructed in proximity both to each other and the street, was somewhat changed by the loss of the hotel. The house at 232 Point St. is somewhat unusual because, unlike its neighbors, its street facade is raised above the ground by a 4 1/2'-high brick foundation. Traveling east on Point Street, the thoroughfare gradually slopes downward until it reaches the level of the Conemaugh River, which winds past the town.

2. Historic landscape: The structure was built on a narrow urban lot. Landscaping was restricted due to the proximity of other houses, for a lone conifer grows on the southwest corner of the lot.

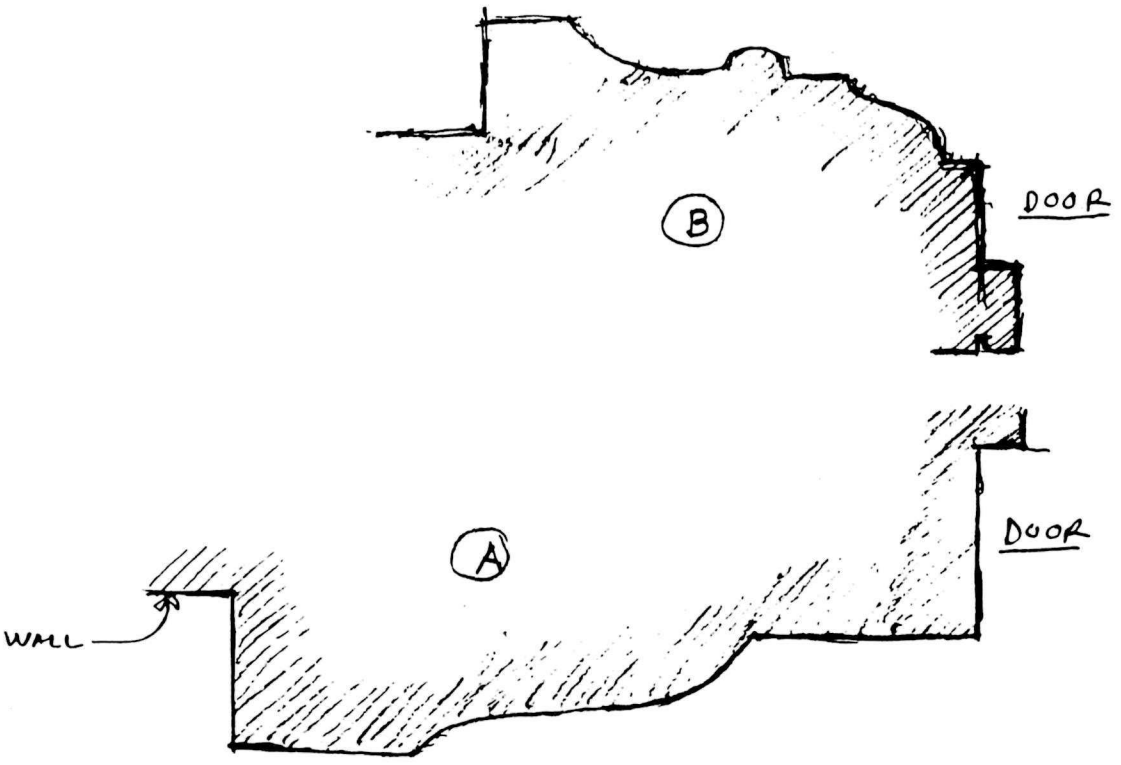


Figure 4.5a. Jamb profiles.

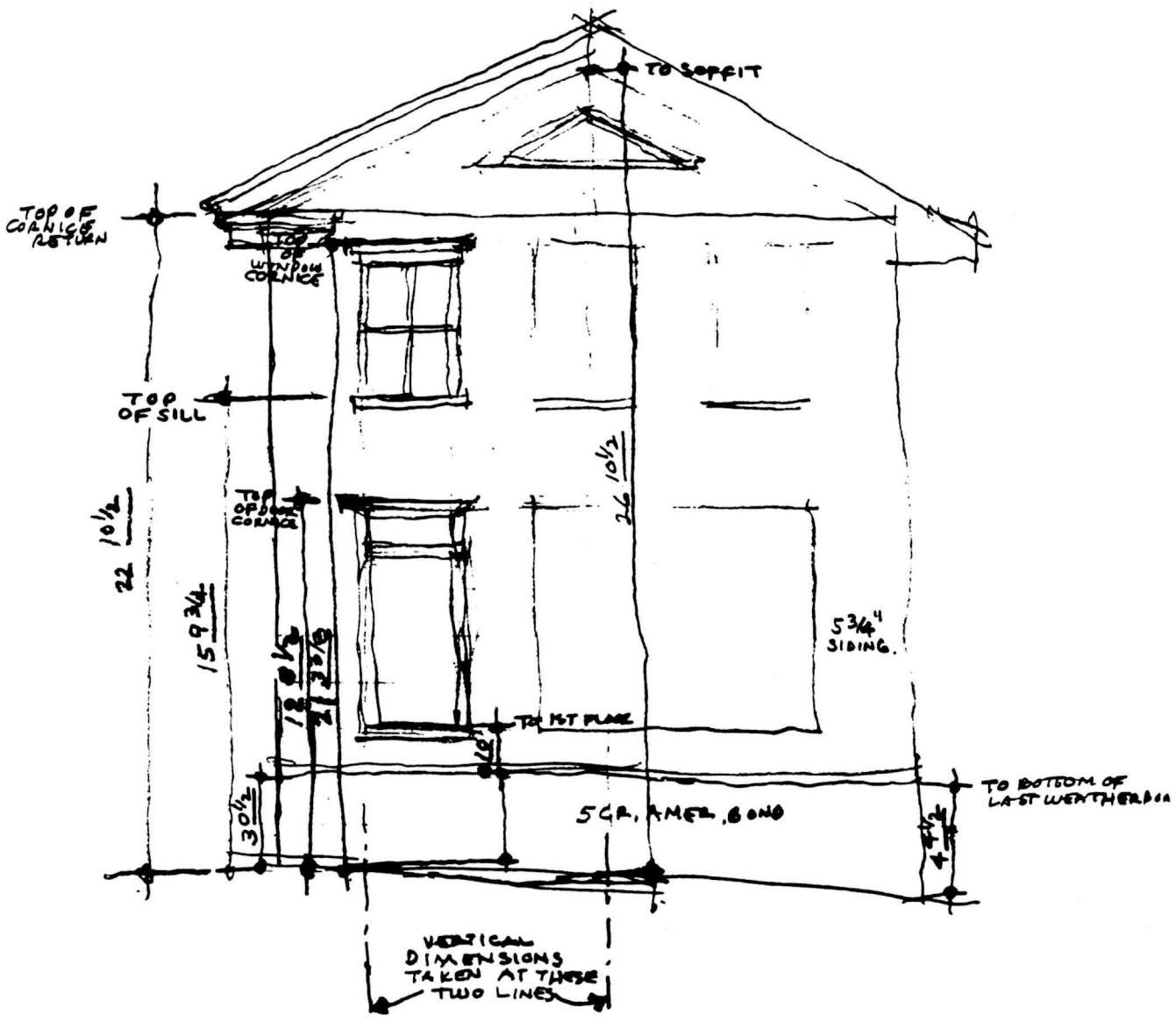


Figure 4.5b. Front elevation.

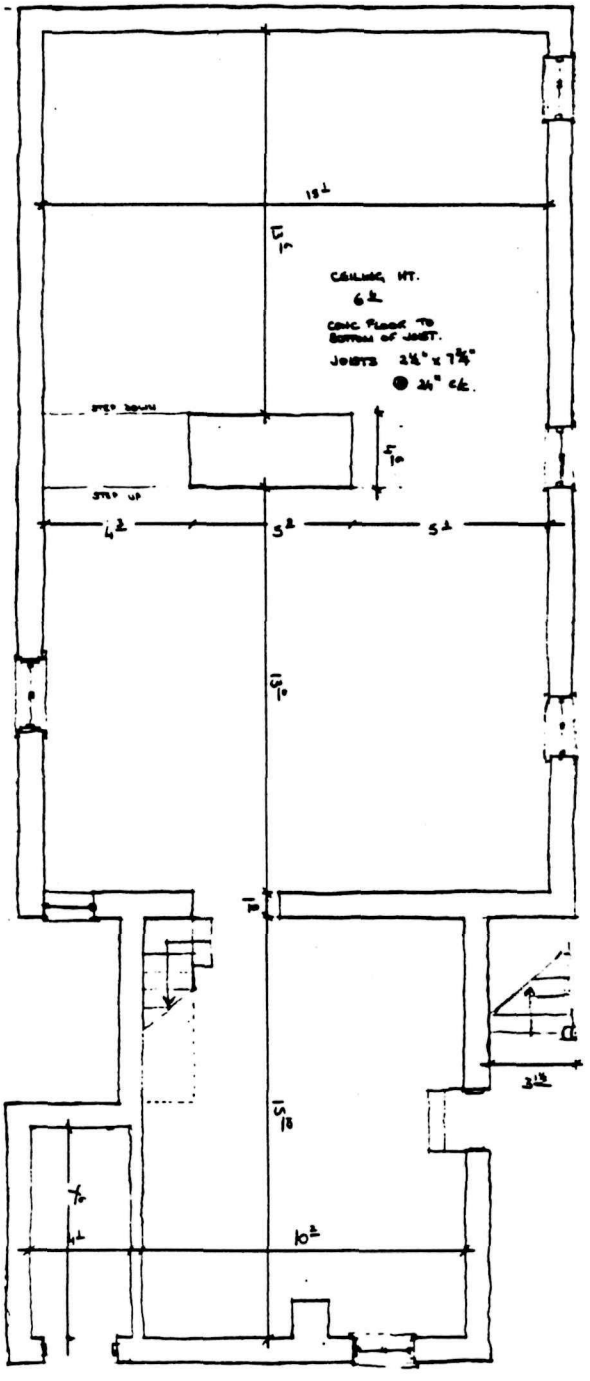


Figure 4.5c. Basement plan.

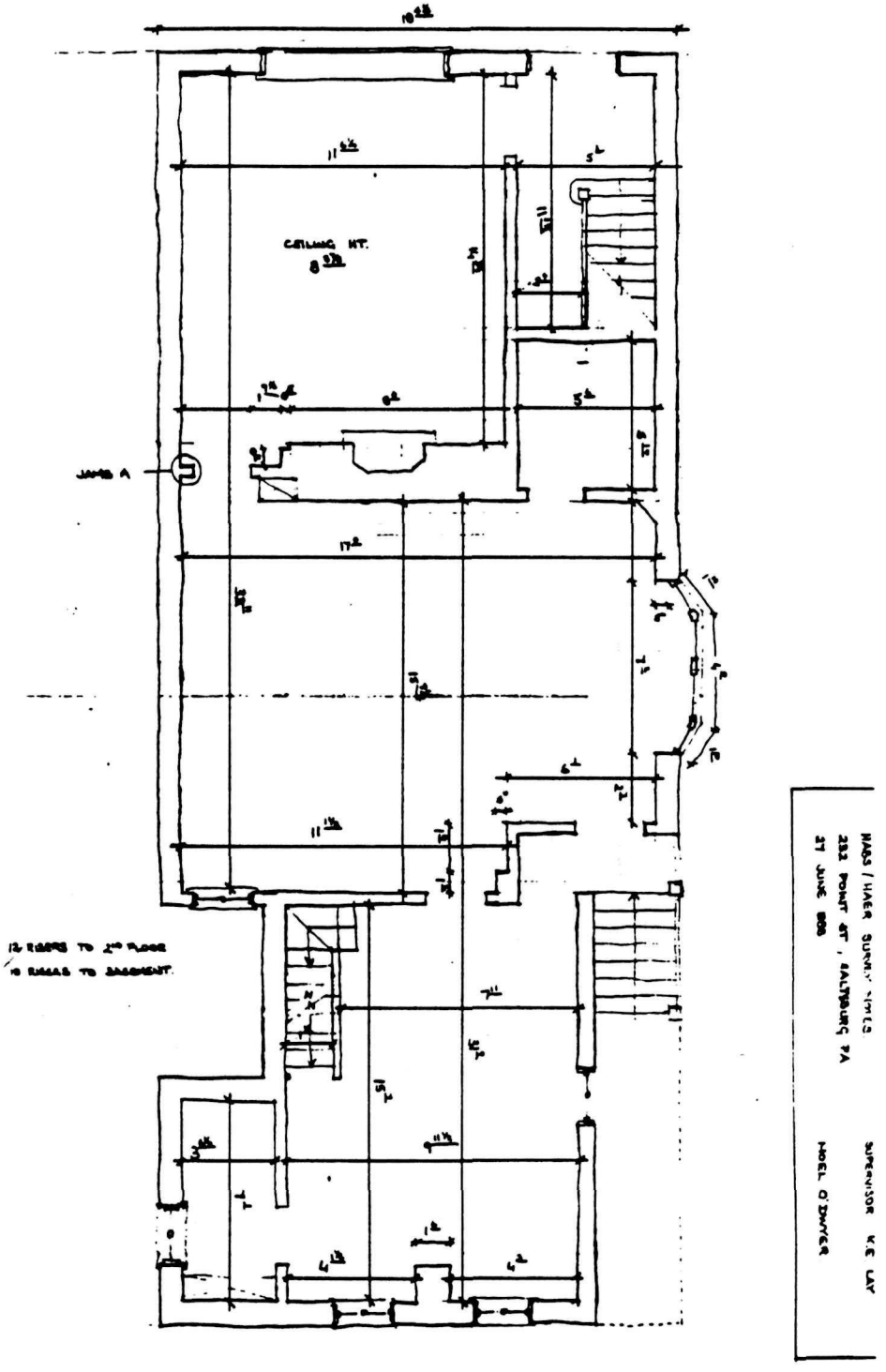


Figure 4.5d. First-floor plan.

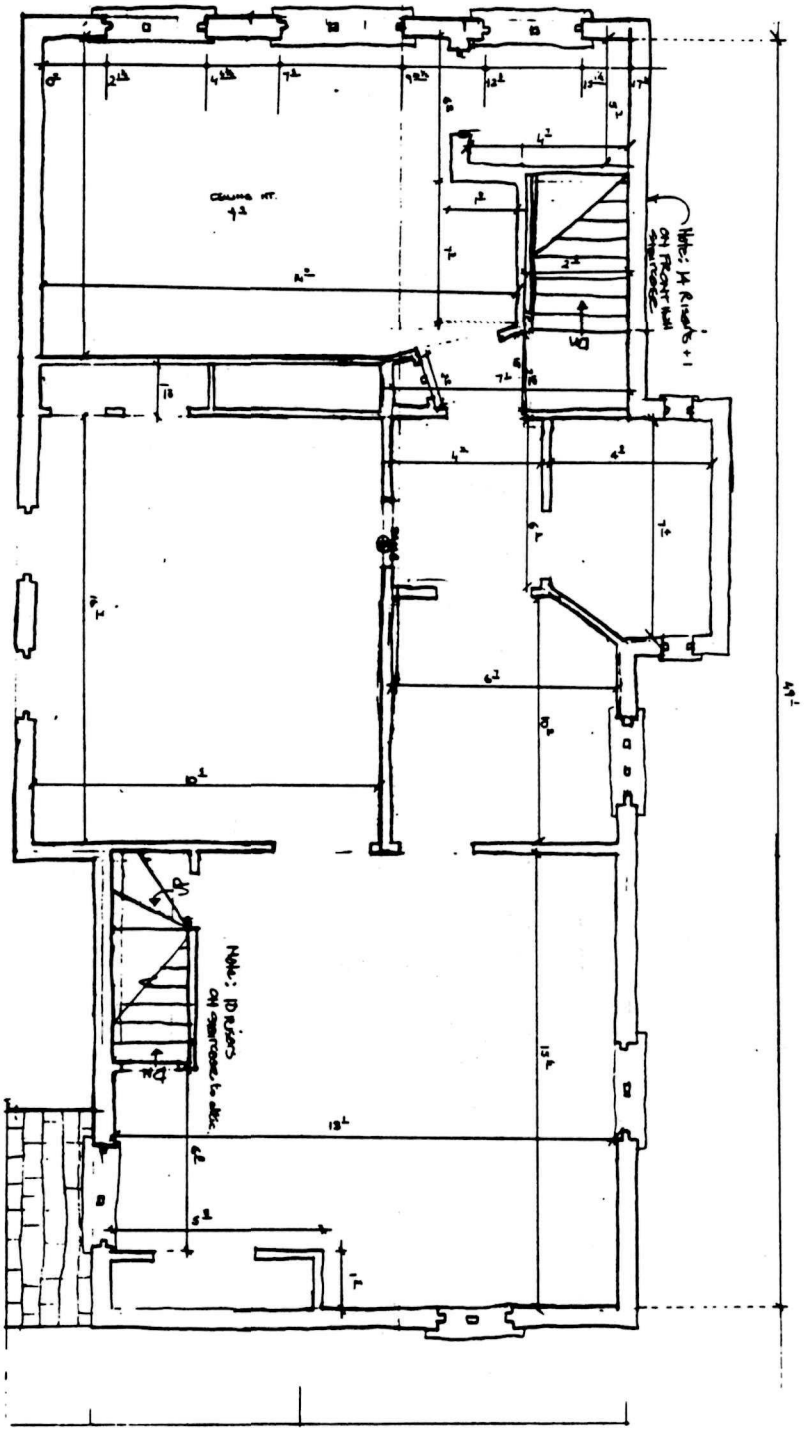


Figure 4.5e. Second-floor plan.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. THOMAS MURRAY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5417

Location: 101 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Rose M. Gaworecki.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This house is in the prominent canal-era location between the river and what was the canal. Today it is one of a small group of extant Saltsburg canal-period buildings in proximity to each other.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1847, according to deed and tax records.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically the west half of lot No. 11. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1846 Deed April 1, 1846, Volume 15, Page 299.
James R. and Mary Ann Dougherty
TO
Dr. Thomas Murray (No buildings noted; parcel includes all lot No. 11)

1848 Dr. Murray sold east half of lot No. 11 to William Robinson
(see WM. ROBINSON HOUSE, 103 Point Street).

1852 Deed August 26, 1852, Volume 18, Page 431.
Dr. Thomas Murray
TO
Daniel R. Stitsel (Brick dwelling noted; this and future transactions refer to west half of lot No. 11.)

1854 Deed April 10, 1854, Volume A-52, Page 15.
Daniel R. and Matilda M. Stitsel
TO
Reverend Thomas J. Penny

1861 Deed September 29, 1861, Volume A-52, Page 16.
Reverend Thomas J. and Martha Penny
TO
Martha Weaver (who bequeathed it to Susanna Weddel)

1869 Deed June 16, 1869, Volume B-35, Page 452.
Peter M. Waddle, et al. (including Susanna Weddel)
TO
Dr. William F. Barclay

1921 Deed December 17, 1921, Volume 200, Page 177.
Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh (administrator of Wm. Barclay estate)
TO
J.M. Patterson

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans exist, but Sanborn maps indicate the building has always consisted of the two-story front block and one-story rear shed, in one material or another.

4. Alterations and additions: The one-story brick front-entry porch was added between 1909 and 1927 (Sanborn); it replaced a similiary wood structure, prior to which there was no known front porch.

The Water Street facade appears to have been partially rebuilt, probably in part to accommodate the new picture window. A one-story brick addition with a shed roof was added to the north end of the two-story ell. A frame porch existed on the rear portion of the east wall from at least 1886 to 1929.

B. Historical Context: A cluster of buildings including 101 Point St. was erected during the late 1840s in this important location between Water Street and the Conemaugh River on the west and the canal to the east.

Dr. Thomas Murray, who commissioned the house about 1847, hailed from the Susquehanna Valley in southern Pennsylvania. There he earned a medical degree before attending medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. Murray arrived in Saltsburg in 1837 and quickly established a lucrative practice. He served as a town burgess 1838 and ultimately retired to a farm on nearby Elder's ridge (formerly Watson's ridge).

A later resident of 101 Point St. was also a physician. Dr. William F. Barclay occupied the house from 1869 until his death in 1918. Barclay was born in nearby Centre Township, was educated at the academies in Saltsburg and Greenburg, and studied medicine with a Saltsburg doctor before attending Bellevue Medical College in New York. He may have practiced in Saltsburg from 1866 until 1878.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building at 101 Point St. is a modest, three-bay, Federal-style brick dwelling organized on a side-hall plan, two and one-half stories tall and largely unadorned.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 20' x 50'.

2. Foundation: Stone; partially banked.

3. Wall construction: Brick, laid in five-course American bond, except for some portions of the altered west facade, which are running bond.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: The easternmost bay of the front facade contains the entry to the house. This all-brick, gable-roofed porch features an elliptical arch supported by columns with "capitals."

6. Chimneys: One interior brick chimney exists at the gable end of the ell's north facade, west of the ridge line.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front door is located in the easternmost of the three bays; single, wood, possibly with a transom.

 b. Windows: The front facade features three windows on the second floor, two on the first. All are one-over-one-light double-hung aluminum sash, with wood lintels and sills. Modern picture windows are installed on the west wall of the main block, and the west and east walls of the shed addition. Also on the west facade, attic story, are two four-light single sash, and small single-light basement windows.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side-gable with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice, eaves: Wide, plain, boxed frame eaves.

C. Site: The corner site is faced on the west by Water Street and the river; on the east and south by additional residences; and on the north by an alley and vegetation. A frame stable that existed from at least 1869 until 1921 is no longer extant.

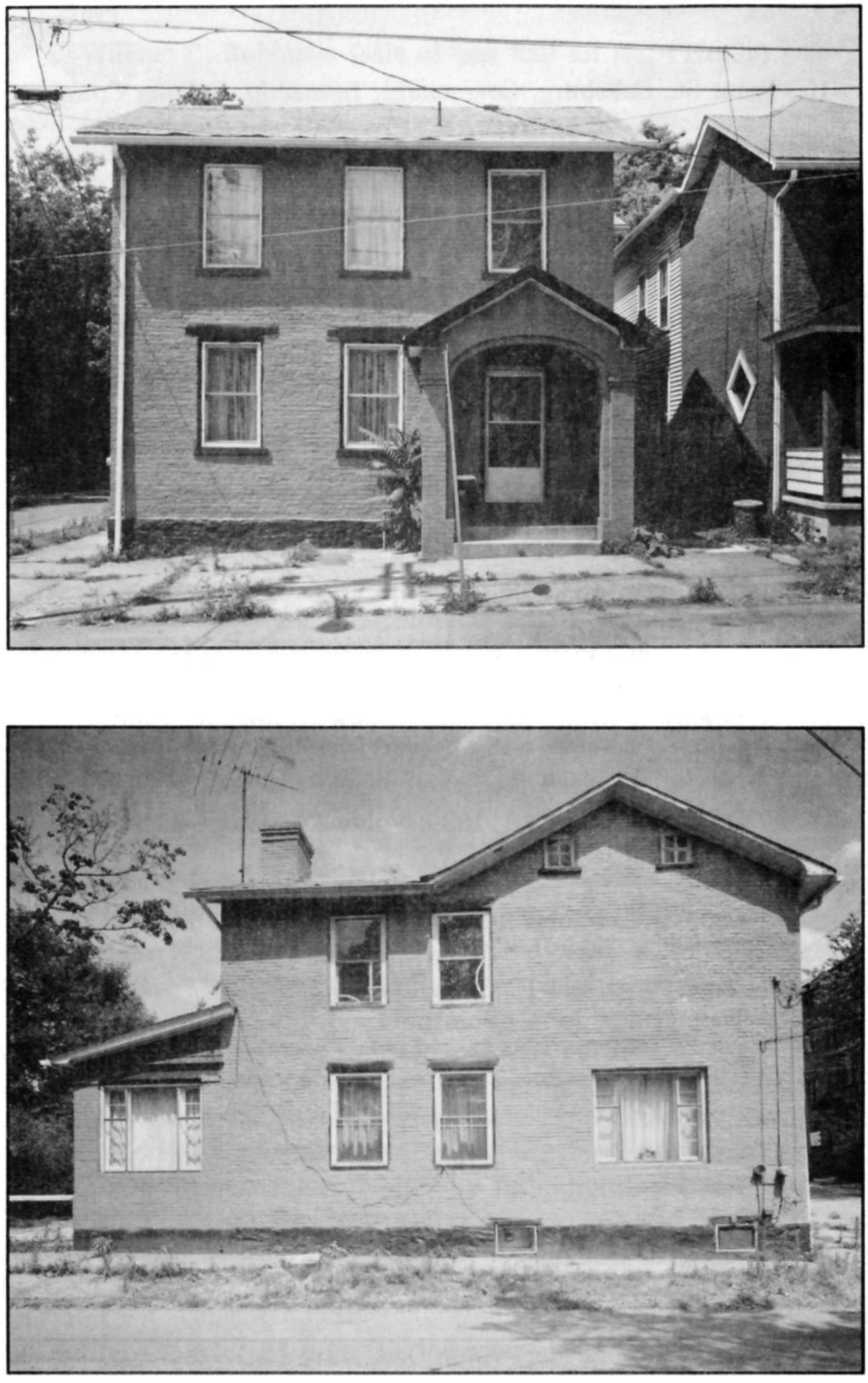


Figure 4.6. South/front (top) and west/side facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM C. ROBINSON HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5418

Location: 103 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Richard P. Weaver.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: The William C. Robinson House is significant as one of a handful of dwellings located in the block of Point Street between the river and the canal; it was constructed along this main street prior to mid-century when this was the town center.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1843-49, according to deed records.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically the east half of lot No. 11. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1839 Deed September 10, 1839, Volume 11, Page 83.
James Speer
TO
Thomas and John Robinson (entire lot No. 11)

1843 Deed March 18, 1843, Volume 12, Page 685.
Thomas and John Robinson
TO
William C. Robinson

1843 Deed October 25, 1843, Volume 13, Page 150.
William C. Robinson
TO
James R. Dougherty

1846 Deed April 1, 1846, Volume 15, Page 299.
James R. and Mary Anne Daugherty (sic)
TO
Dr. Thomas Murrey (sic)

1848 Deed June 19, 1848, Volume 16, Page 28.
Dr. Thomas Murray

TO
William C. Robinson (sale of east half lot No. 11 only)

1859 Deed March 26, 1859, Volume 24, Page 481.
William C. and Jane Robinson
TO
James and Jennie Rodgers (half lot No. 11 hereafter)

1877 Deed September 8, 1877, Volume A-45, Page 422.
James and Jennie Rodgers
TO
Robert A. Martin

1883 Deed January 20, 1883, Volume A-45, Page 425.
Robert A. Martin
TO
George Martin

1947 Deed February 14, 1947, Volume 381, Page 544.
Ord Kenley Martin, et al. (George Martin's heirs)
TO
Sarah Hazel Martin

1970 Deed October 2, 1970, Volume 614, Page 24.
Sarah Hazel Martin
TO
Richard P. Weaver

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The building was erected as a rectangular, side-gable brick block.

4. Alterations and additions: The side and rear portions of the building have been altered by the addition of a two-story frame structure (now sided with aluminium). Between 1886-91, existing one- and two-story frame additions were removed and replaced with a two-story frame block measuring about 30' x 25'.

The front facade also featured a full, one-story frame porch (Sanborns). The present porch on the westernmost bay protects the front door. The diamond-shaped, stained-glass window on the west facade is not original.

B. Historical Context: A cluster of buildings including 101 and 103 Point St. were constructed during the late 1840s in this important location between Water Street and the Kiskiminetas River on the west and the canal to the east.

Dr. Thomas Murray acquired this property without any structures on it from William Robinson in 1846; it included the land on the west, what is now 101 Point St. A year later he commissioned the house. Murray hailed from the Susquehanna Valley in southern Pennsylvania. There he earned a medical degree before attending lectures

at the University of Pennsylvania. Murray arrived in Saltsburg in 1837 and quickly established a lucrative practice. He served as a town burgess in 1838 and elder in the Presbyterian Church in 1858; he eventually retired to a farm on nearby Elder's ridge (formerly Watson's ridge).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This modest brick, two-story, three-bay mass represents a typical vernacular Federal-style dwelling.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: 20' x 25', with a frame addition measuring 25' x 30'.

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Walls: Main block is brick laid in five-course American bond; aluminium siding atop frame on the rear addition.

4. Structural systems: Load-bearing brick and frame.

5. Porches: A post-1920s raised, one-story entry porch is constructed of wood, set on a concrete foundation with a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles.

6. Chimneys: There are two interior brick chimneys, one at the east gable end; one at the gable-end of the rear ell.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The single, partially glazed front door is located in the westernmost bay of the Point Street facade; it features a wide, plain wood architrave trim. A door on the west facade is accessed through the frame addition.

b. Windows: On the main facade, the three second-floor windows are unframed, with predominant sills and lintels, with one-over-one-light double-hung sash. The two windows on the first-floor feature distinguishing but simple wood architrave trim, and contain asymmetrical one-over-one-light, double-hung sash. The diamond-shaped, stained-glass window on the west facade was installed later.

8. Roof: Side-gable with slightly higher ridge line where the cross gable intersects

with the frame addition.

C. Site: The dwelling faces Point Street in the block between the Conemaugh River and the canal right of way; to the east, west, and south are additional residences; to the north is an alley.

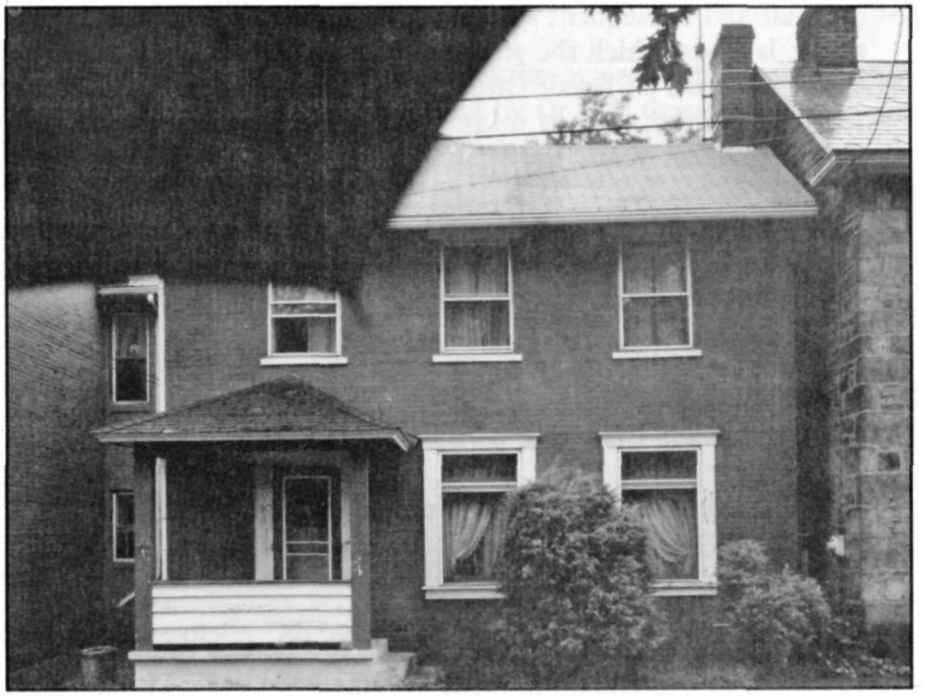


Figure 4.7. South/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

105 POINT STREET HOUSE
(Stone House Museum)

HABS No. PA-5419

Location: 105 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Saltsburg Area Branch, Historical and Geneological Society of Indiana County.

Present Use: Historical museum.

Significance: This five-bay stone dwelling is located on what was a prominent and important block--between the canal and the river--during the years when the canal was built. As one of the few stone buildings extant in Saltsburg that also maintains its architectural integrity, the material reflects a tradition of Pennsylvania-German construction as well as that associated with the development of a canal structure.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1830.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 12. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

The deed chain is unclear and undocumented during the earliest and most significant years.

1839 Sold at auction; seller and buyer unknown.

1841 Robert McIlwain or Valentine Blank, owner.

1855 R. McWilliams, owner.

1868-71 Dr. J.L. Crawford, owner.

1891 Deed May 12, 1891, no volume or page given.
J.M. Robinson
TO
H.P. Lewis

1891 Deed September 4, 1891, Volume B55, Page 450-53.
H.P. Lewis
TO
John Robinson, John Stewart, et al.

1891 Will Book, Volume 11, Page 129.
J. Robinson (d. 1900), J. Stewart (d. 1897), et al.
TO
Nannie H. Robinson

1917 Deed February 9, 1917, Volume 154, Page 591.
Nannie Robinson, et al.
TO
George W. Martin

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, although the building was originally composed only of the five-bay, rectangular stone block.

4. Alterations and additions: A gable-roofed, one-story rear ell has historically existed off the rear/west facade; a cinder-block construction addition was made to the one-story frame ell in 1988.

B. Historical context: Tax records from 1841 indicate that Robert McIlwain, reputed to have been the first merchant to arrive in Saltsburg, in 1831, may have been the first owner of the house. He went into a partnership with William McIlwain that may have included various other properties he is known to have been involved with--a warehouse, store, and another dwelling. William continued in the business until 1875 (Stewart, 503).

Cabinetmaker Robert McWilliams was the owner of 105 Point St. at mid-century. By at least 1871, he was succeeded by Dr. J.L. Crawford, whose small, detached office was just to the east at 107 Point St. Crawford, who moved to Saltsburg in 1868, served in the Civil War until he was wounded and discharged.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple five-bay, two-story, interpretation of Federal styling is typical of a Pennsylvania-German stone dwelling type.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 45' x 20', with a 20' x 25' rear addition (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone; partially banked.

3. Walls: Stone laid in random courses with the heaviest stones at the base, becoming smaller up the height of the building; the corners feature large,

dressed quoins of stone.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing stone.

5. Porches, stoops: Two steps lead to the central, recessed entrance.

6. Chimneys: Interior brick chimneys at each gable end; the west chimney is topped by a chimney pot installed later. There is a third interior brick chimney in the north gable-end wall of the rear ell.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance is located in the central bay of the south Point Street facade. The single wood door is recessed deep in the thick stone structure; it features a pair of elongated, round-arched glazed openings, below which are two recessed panels defined by heavy moldings. The rectangular transom above is plain; the surrounding architrave trim is wide but unadorned.

 b. Windows: Two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows are installed across the five-bays, which feature plain wood lintels, sills, and surrounds.

8. Roof: Shape, covering, eaves: Side-gable roof with average, boxed wood cornice, covered with decorative slate shingles.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The site is flat and the building oriented toward the south side of Point Street. On its west and east flanks are additional dwellings, and to the north and rear is an alley.

2. Outbuildings: A frame stable existed behind the house by 1891; it is gone.

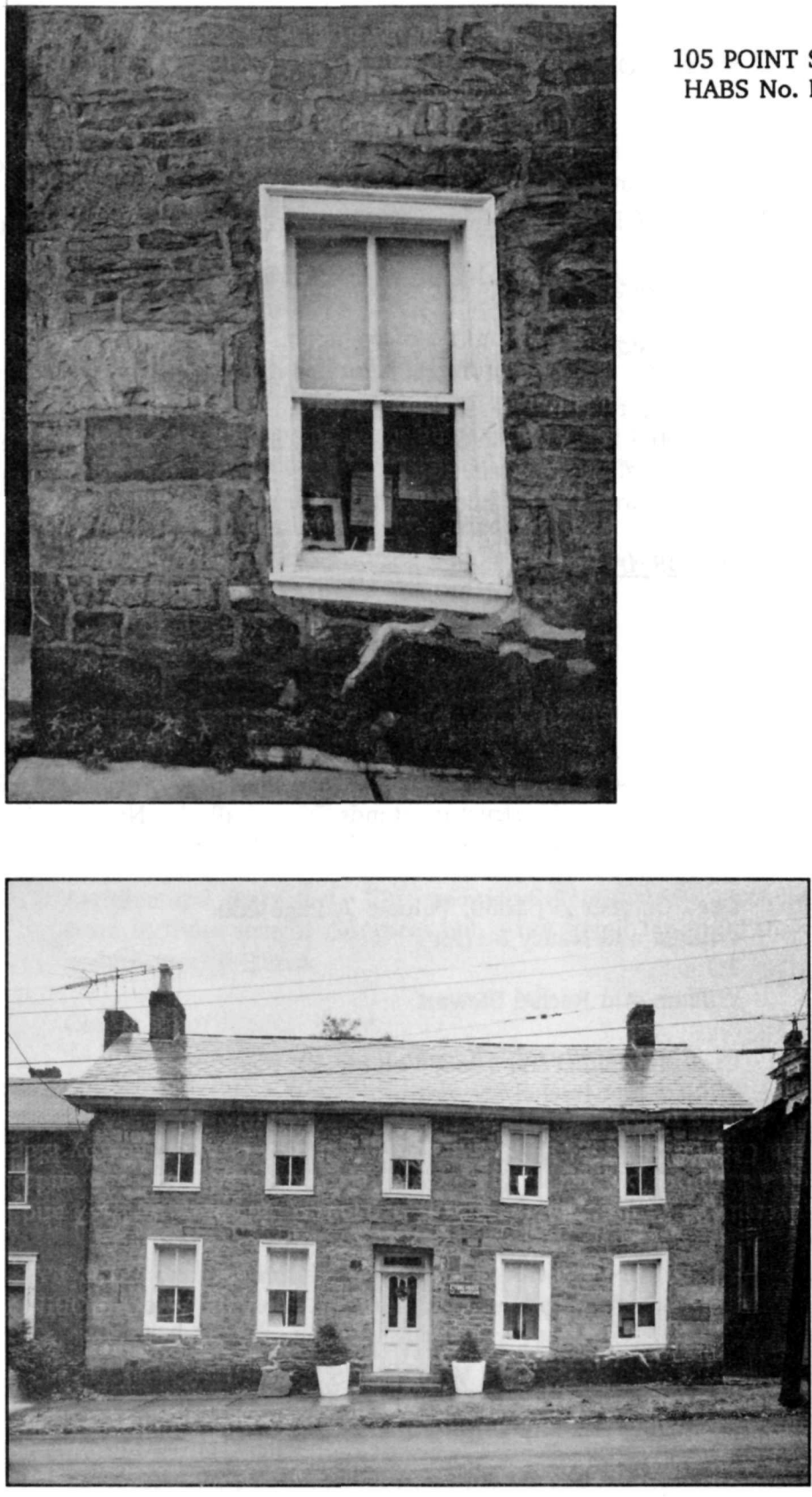


Figure 4.8. Detail of stone construction (top) and south/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROBERT J. TAYLOR HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5420

Location: 211 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Gloria J. Berringer.

Present Use: Multi-family residence.

Significance: This building historically served as a multi-unit commercial and residential space, the initial home of the Saltsburg Bank and the long-time home-shop of saddler and canal-boat captain Robert Taylor. The building itself is notable for its size and separate units, though stylistically undistinguished.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1838, possibly to replace a pre-existing frame dwelling (tax records).

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 17. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1830 Deed October 27, 1830, Volume 7, Page 583.
William and Nancy Sterret
TO
William and Rachel Stewart

1853 Deed September 19, 1853, Volume 19, Page 330.
William and Rachel Stewart
TO
Margaret R. Taylor

1881 Deed February 24, 1881, Volume A-43, Page 594.
Robert J. and Margaret Taylor
TO
William R. McIlwain

1937 Deed January 9, 1937, Volume 286, Page 137.
William McIlwain
TO
Charles McIlwain

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, however the building appears to be somewhat altered from its historic two-story, brick, L-plan mass.

4. Alterations and additions: A three-bay, two-story brick addition was made to the east end of the main block at approximately the same time the latter was constructed. The center gable on the south facade was a Victorian accretion of the late-nineteenth century. Integrated porches on the rear interior facades have been enclosed as part of structure, and a modern wood deck with exterior stairs installed along the north facade. Prior to 1886 through at least 1927 a one-story frame addition was located off the north ell wall (Sanborns).

B. Historical Context: Robert J. Taylor married Margaret Stewart, daughter of William Stewart, the property owner up to the middle of the century. Taylor is believed to have built the house about 1838, while the site was in his father-in-law's name; he lived there from the 1850s through 1881. A canal-boat captain and therefore a prominent citizen, Taylor operated a saddlery shop in the building, which accounts for the second entrance on the main facade (Peelor). When the Saltsburg Bank was founded in 1871, it was first housed in the three-bay eastern addition to Taylor's house (Beers).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This traditional Pennsylvania L-plan dwelling and store includes several entrances but is not noted for any distinguishing architectural features.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 55' x 30', with a 22' x 18' ell (Sanborns).

2. Foundations: Stone.

3. Walls: Brick, generally laid in four-course American bond; and frame, along the interior of the rear facades where the porches are enclosed. The Victorian gable is clad with shingles. There are pseudo-brick sheets of asphalt on the enclosed interior east wall.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick and frame.

5. Porches: The two integrated porches on the interior rear facades have been enclosed with a frame structure. To the north facade, a second-story, modern wood deck has been added.

6. Chimneys: One interior brick gable-end chimney on the west gable end; one brick ridge (the east gable end of the original block prior to the three-bay addition).

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The south facade features the original central entrance (third bay from west): single, paneled wood door with abbreviated side-lights and a semicircular transom. The first and fifth bays contain secondary doors that are much-altered: transoms are boarded up and aluminum doors have been installed. The three-bay addition contains a first-floor storefront with central, single door flanked by display windows; this opening has been reduced by the installation of a modern door that is smaller than the original, with the space awkwardly filled in with clapboard.

 The rear facade features at least three doors on the first floor, and one on the second; all have been modernized to some degree.

 b. Windows: On the south facade, the eight bays of the second floor and two bays of the first story contain two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash supported by narrow sills and lintels with bull's-eye corners; the attic gable contains a one-over-one-light double-hung sash.

 The windows flanking the three-bay addition are two-over-one-light double-hung wood sash set within a storefront composition that includes blind sidelights and simple cornice supported by four pairs of heavy brackets. The rear and ell facades feature miscellaneous fenestration including two-over-two-light and six-over-six-light sash.

8. Roof: Gable, cross-gable with asphalt shingles.

C. Site: Facing south, across and among the historically developed block of Point Street, the building is east of the canal right of way and railway tracks.

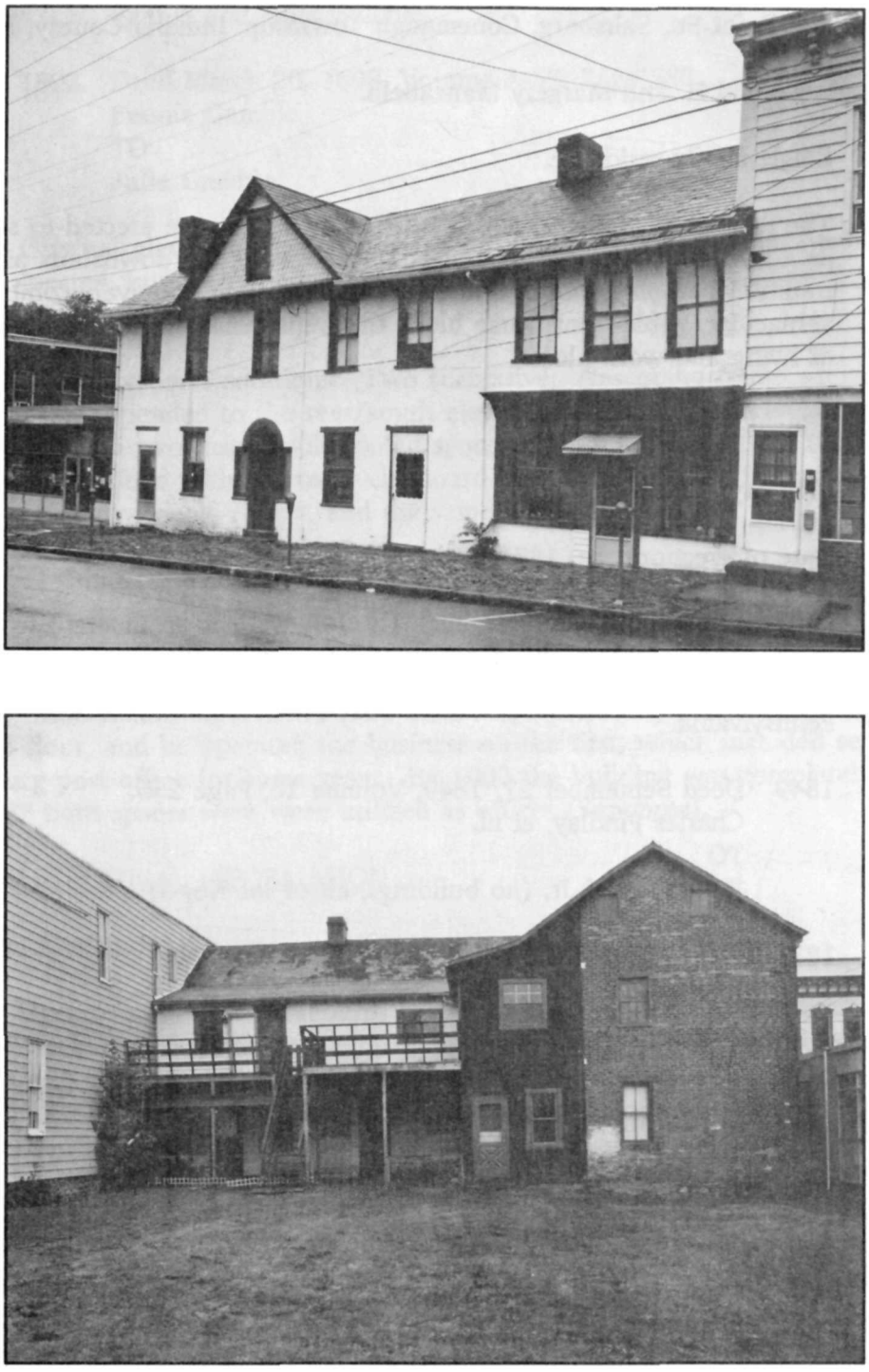


Figure 4.9. South/front (top) and north/rear facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SAMUEL S. MOORE HOUSE AND STORE

HABS No. PA-5421

Location: 222 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Ronald H. and Margery Mancabelli.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: The Samuel S. Moore House is notable as a structure erected to serve upstairs as a residence, accessed by a separate doorway, and downstairs as a store with traditional display windows and recessed entry--here naively combined in a vernacular, gable-front frame block that represents the forthcoming separation of living and work places.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1871.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically the east half of lot No. 3. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1849 Deed September 27, 1849, Volume 16, Page 256.
Charles Findlay, et al.
TO
Francis Laird Jr. (no buildings, all of lot No. 3)

1871 Deed March 14, 1871, Volume A-37, Page 52.
Francis and Ellen Laird
TO
Samuel S. Moore (buildings, half lot No. 3)

1877 Deed April 16, 1877, Volume A-40, Page 460.
Samuel S. and Margaret Moore
TO
Emma Thomas

1883 Deed April 10, 1883, Volume A-46, Page 72.
Emma Thomas
TO
Margaret Moore

1884 Deed August 21, 1884, Volume A-47, Page 575.

Margaret Moore
TO
Fannie and Julia Gamble

1893 Deed March 20, 1893, Volume A-57, Page 588.
Fannie Gamble
TO
Julia Gamble

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but the two-story, frame, gable-front building with first-floor storefront remains largely unchanged.

4. Alterations and additions: Two successive, telescoping frame additions have been appended to the rear/south elevation; each is a rectangular mass. The first is a two-story, gable-roofed space, slightly less wide than the original block, sided with narrower clapboard than the original. The second addition is one-story, gable-roofed, and the same width.

B. Historical Context: The building at 222 Point St. was constructed by Samuel S. Moore, a "dealer in confectioneries, fruits and nuts, cooking and parlor stoves," and a "manufacturer of tin and sheet iron ware" (Beers). Tax records of the 1870s through the early '80s identify him variously as a tinner, grocer and postmaster. His income during these years ranged from $100 to $150. Moore and his family lived on the second floor, and he operated the business on the first, which included serving as the Saltsburg post office for some years. By 1909 the building was completely vacant, but by 1927 both spaces were were utilized as offices (Sanborns).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This first-floor storefront is found in an uncharacteristically non-commercial building form, a frame gable-front that is largely residential in appearance; sparse ornamental highlights are found in dentil coursing and raked eaves, as well as Victorian brackets and pilastered gingerbread.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 35' x 80' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone and brick; partially banked.

3. Walls: The front/north face of the building is clad with wide, horizontal weatherboards. The side facades are the same, though the boards are narrower and may be tongue-in-groove. The same siding is used on the southernmost addition. The middle addition features the same narrow siding.

4. Structural system: Frame.

5. Porches: A full hipped-roof porch extends over the commercial and residential entrances on the north facade; at the former end supported by the storefront itself, at the other by a single, squared corner column. The rear/south facade also features a frame porch.

6. Chimneys: There are two interior brick chimneys; one west of the ridge of the gable end of the first addition; the other at the south wall of the second addition.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The main facade features two independent entrances, with the storefront comprising about two-thirds of the facade width. This includes a single, glazed door topped by a two-light transom, and flanked by display windows. The frame supports rest on a wood base and floor deck.

 The single doorway to the residential area on the second floor is recessed in the westernmost bay and contains a paneled, modern door. A third doorway is located at the north end of the west facade. Another is in the second frame addition; both are plain and single.

 b. Windows: The off-center storefront features full-height, one-over-one-light canted display windows in a frame structure with paneled wood base.

 The second story of the north elevation features three bays of one-over-one-light, double-hung-sash windows; there is evidence the architrave trim has been removed. The gable features a single, segmental-arch opening surrounded by heavy, hooded trim.

 The east and west facades feature irregular fenestration: two-over-two-light double-hung sash with modestly decorative wood surrounds. There are two openings on the east wall; on the west wall, four regularly spaced windows on the second floor and four irregular openings on the first floor. The two windows in the south facade, original building and additions, contain six lights each.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape: Gable front with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Pronounced eaves with a raked cornice are located on the main facade, with exaggerated-dentil coursing, brackets and pilastered gingerbread brackets that extend up and out of the corner framing.

C. Site: Narrow lot in a densely built-up block, facing north to Point Street; surrounded on the north, east, and west by other residences.

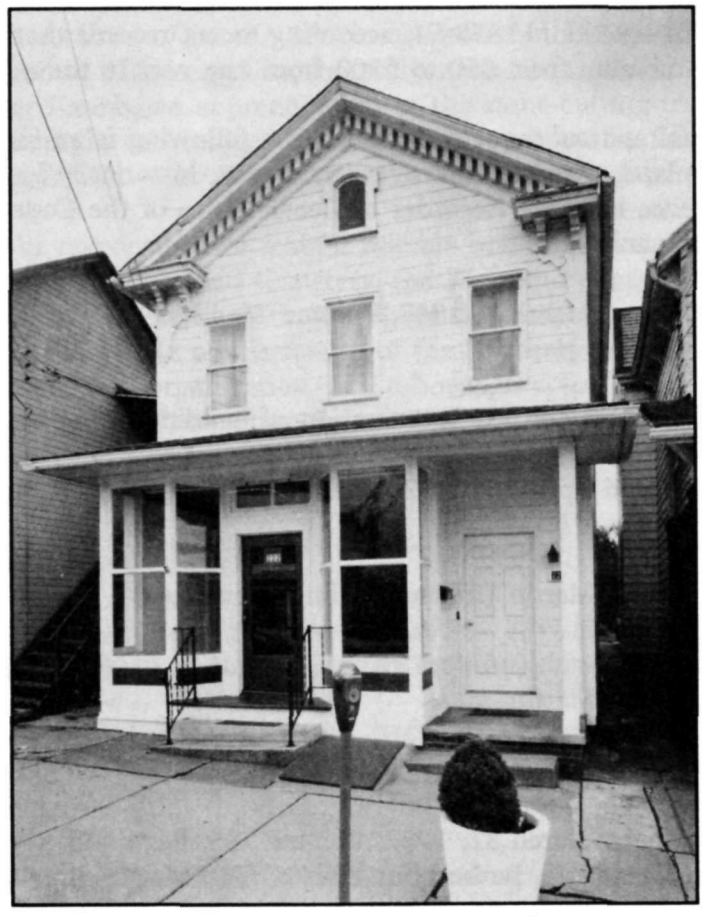


Figure 4.10. North/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN MARTIN HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5422

Location: 502 High St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Virgil H. and Dorothy Johnston.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This vernacular frame dwelling is advantageously sited and is distinguished by unusual gingerbread ornamentation--such as a crenellated cornice--as well as serving as the longtime home of prominent local stone mason John Martin.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1853-54, according to tax records that indicate an increase in the lot's value from $50 to $700 from one year to the next.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot Nos. 62, 63, and 64. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1849 Deed March 9, 1849, Volume 16, Page 45.
Moses Hart
TO
Robert McCrea (no mention of building)

1853 Deed April 13, 1853, Volume 19, Page 181.
Robert R. McCrea
TO
John Martin (frame dwelling mentioned)

after 1893 Will Book (no date given), Volume 6, Page 121.
John Martin
TO
Thomas B. Martin

1937 Deed March 31, 1937, Volume 285, Page 445.
Thomas S. Barbor (for heirs of T.B. Martin, died October 1893)
TO
John M. Redpath

1949 Deed January 10, 1949, Volume 382, Page 126.
John M. Redpath

TO
Virgil H. and Dorothy Johnston

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The structure was erected and remains essentially a rectangular, side-hall mass.

4. Alterations and additions: A one-story, frame garage has been appended to the south facade, although historically an addition of this form has existed there. The entrance and flanking windows on the west facade are not original, but the original form and date of alteration are unknown.

B. Historical Context: According to local legend, Saltsburg's master stone mason, John Martin (born 1820), lived in this house that he erected using a batch of wood given him by a carpenter as repayment for a large debt. Its distinctive form and design are supposed to replicate the family home in Enniskillen, Ireland, the only difference being the latter was constructed of stone. Martin emigrated in 1834 with his father from Ireland, and settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His career included work on the Sandy and Beaver Canals, an apprenticeship in the stone-cutting trade with Pagan and Company of Pittsburgh, and bridge construction. He arrived in Saltsburg in the early 1840s and served for six years as a foreman mason on the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad

Martin was responsible for several notable buildings in Saltsburg, including the Soldier's Monument in Edgewood Cemetery, the Western Pennsylvania Railroad Station, St. Matthew's Catholic Church and the Saltsburg Academy (see HABS entries for each), as well as this dwelling. He was treasurer of the Saltsburg Bridge Company, vice president of the cemetery organization, and a borough council member. Martin's stone-cutting yard was on Point Street just east of the canal (Arms, 383, 391).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The dwelling at 502 High St. is a modest, rectangular frame block embellished with eclectic Gothicky and Victorian elements.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 28' x 52', including addition (Sanborns).

2. Foundations: Stone, steeply banked.

3. Walls: Horizontal clapboard, two widths; corner boards.

4. Structural systems: Frame.

5. Porches: The single entrance on the north facade features an ornate, cantilevered porch that includes a concave, polygonal roof, crenellated cresting, stepped entablature, and two exaggerated brackets--all wood. The east facade porch is partial, one-story, and cantilevered over the central three bays (door and two windows) with a hipped roof and the same brackets. The west facade includes a raised, double-deck porch over the central three bays, supported by wood posts and pilasters with gingerbread bracing and ballustrade, crenellated cornice, boxed entablature; the basement level has plain, squared columnar supports on a brick foundation.

6. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, at the ends of the hipped ridge line.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: There are two primary doorways. The north entrance is in the easternmost of the three bays; a single, wood door with flanking sidelights, transom and masonry steps with side walls. The east face contains a single wood door flanked by fixed four-light fenestration, all topped by a six-light transom. The west facade contains a central single door on the first floor, and two basement-level doors in the exterior bays.

 b. Windows and shutters: Most windows contain six-over-six-light double-hung sash, flanked by louvered shutters; these are largely arranged in a regular pattern on each elevation.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape: Low-pitched hip with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice: Boxed, convex cornice with crenellated wood cresting that is repeated on the porch rooflines.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Side-hall plan with the front space serving as a living room, behind which is a dining room, and behind that, the kitchen et al.

2. Stairways: Stairway in side hall features a central landing, riser-end carving, and a wood banister with turned newel post and posts.

3. Doors and doorways: Interior doorways are framed with wood architrave trim and bulls'-eye corners.

4. Decorative features: The living room features a large fireplace with a stark wood mantel designed to appear as if it is supported by canted pilasters with an S-curve mantle entablature. An elaborately patterned iron hearth inset with coal grate is located in the living room.

D. Site: The complex John Martin House site is composed of three lots, oriented north to Washington Street. The house is banked into the steep slope, which establishes a two-level east face that opens onto an open field, and three-level west face, which looks down a hill toward the railway.

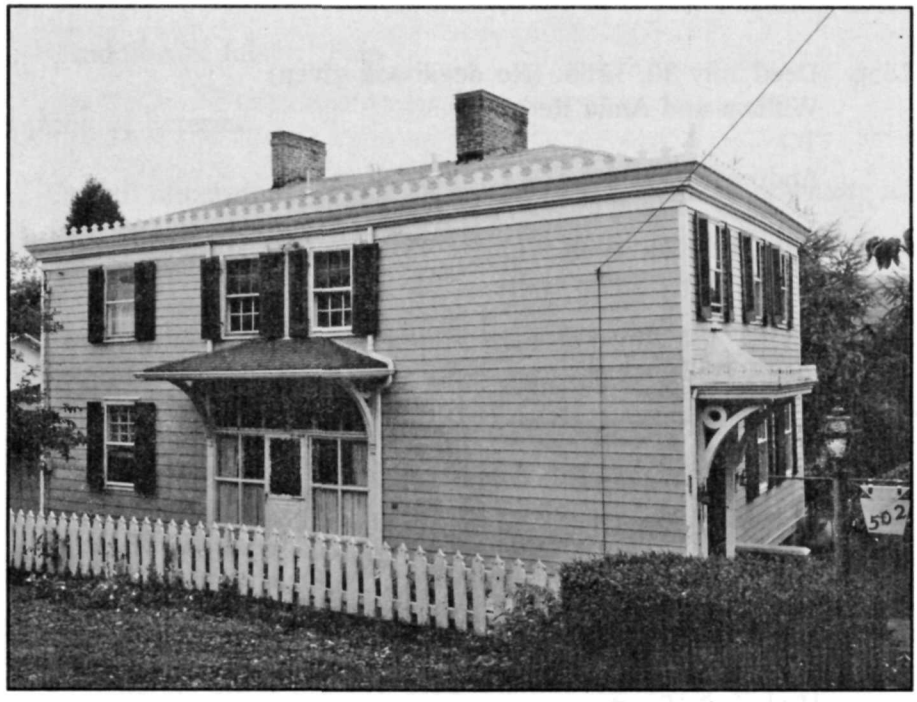


Figure 4.11. East and north/front facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ANDREW ANDRE HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5423

Location: 821 High St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Joseph and Helen Scott, Robert B. Scott

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This mid-century dwelling reflects the most common vernacular form of housing of that period, situated southeast of the commercial center that was earlier founded on canal development; this building also served as the home of cabinet maker Andrew Andre for more than fifty years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1858; tax records indicated a rise in valuation of the lot from $75 to one with an "additional improvement" assessed at $250.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot Nos. 177, 178, and 179. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1856 Deed July 30, 1856. (No deedbook given)
William and Anna Redpath
TO
Andrew S. Andre

1905 Deed July 24, 1905, Volume 93, Page 303.
Mary Andre, Della Andre, et al. (A. Andre's heirs)
TO
Frances H. Johnston

1909 Deed February 8, 1909, Volume 115, Page 109.
Frances H. Johnston
TO
John B. Johnston, et al.

1916 Deed August 9, 1916, Volume 153, Page 403.
J.B. Johnston, et al.
TO
Herbert A. Scott

1937 Deed February 10, 1937, Volume 286, Page 230.

Herbert A. Scott and Hadassah G. Scott
TO
Vera Neal

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located; however, the building appears to retain its original two-story, rectangular, frame form.

4. Alterations and additions: A one-story, shed-roofed kitchen ell with adjacent porch was appended to the east/rear facade; but it appears to have been done not long after construction of the main house, based on materials and form.

B. Historical Context: Deeds indicate that Andrew Andre, who with his brother Joseph manufactured cabinet ware in a shop on Point Street, constructed the dwelling at 821 High St. about 1858. Joseph was a sawyer who operated a sawmill with a shop for turning posts used in high-post beds (Stewart, 505).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Five-bay, two-story vernacular frame dwelling undistinguished by any kind of ornamentation.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 38' x 22', with a 14'-deep one-story addition.

2. Foundation: Stone, slightly banked.

3. Walls: Horizontal wood siding; German siding (flat panels with a narrow space between) on the west wall; broad clapboard on the north and south walls; narrow clapboard on the rear addition.

4. Structural system: Wood frame.

5. Porches: A one-story, hip-roofed porch protects the central three bays of the west/front facade; plain, squared columnar supports with gingerbread bracing and balustrade.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick interior chimneys; one centered along the east wall of the enclosed kitchen ell, the other on the south gable end of the main block.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front/west entry is a single, wood-paneled door in the center of the five bays; it appears to have a modest architrave trim.

The rear entrance on the east facade leads from the back porch into the kitchen addition; presumably it contains a plain, single wood door with little embellishment.

b. Windows: The windows on both floors of the west facade are consistently two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash enframed with plain architrave trim and Classical lintel, as is the single opening on the first floor of the north gable end.

The three windows in the kitchen addition are one-over-one-light double-hung wood sash, with the same surrounds as described above.

The second-floor, rear facade features windows that have been replaced with modern six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

8. Roof:

a. Shape: Side-gable with asphalt shingles.

b. Eaves: Slim and plain, boxed frame eaves.

C. Site: The Andrew Andre House faces west, sited on the southeast corner of High Street and Pine Alley, a neighhood of largely detached, single-family residences. Historically it has been part of a large, three-lot parcel, only one block from the original railroad right of way.



Figure 4.12. HABS No. PA-5423: Andrew Andre House, west/front and north facades.

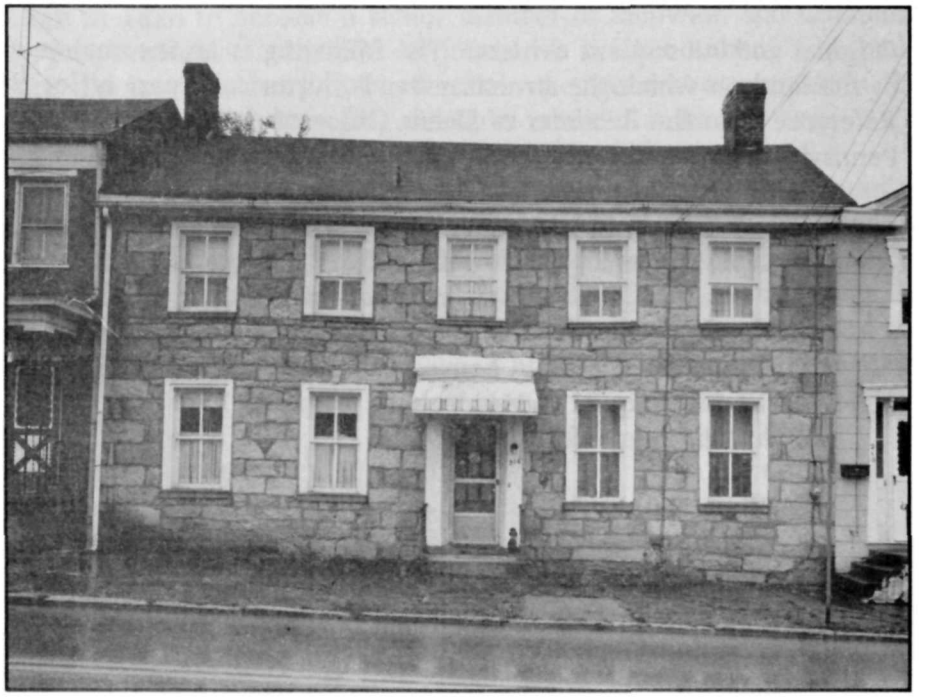


Figure 4.13. HABS No. PA-5424: William McIlwaine House, north/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM McILWAINE HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5424

Location: 214 Washington St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Jacob E. and Winifred Zeigler.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: As one of two remaining--and nearly identical--stone buildings in Saltsburg, 214 Washington St. reflects typical early-nineteenth-century Pennsylvania construction and the town's development as a commercial center dependent upon canal-then-rail transportation entities.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1827-mid-1840s; the building was probably constructed by 1835, when tax records list the owner as having one house and two lots, without specifying which lot contained the dwelling; the second, adjacent lot includes a building that dates from 1840s, so the house noted in the deed may be this one.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically part of lot No. 24. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1827 Deed January 29, 1827, Volume 6, Page 244.
Joseph Harper
TO
John and Mary Elwood (no mention of building)

1844 Deed February 21, 1844, Volume 13, Page 131.
John and Mary Elwood
TO
William McIlwaine

1844 Deed March 27, 1844, Volume 13, Page 592.
David Ralston, Esq., High Sheriff
TO
Unknown

1883 Deed January 15, 1883, Volume A45, Page 424.
William McIlwain and wife

TO
David Kenley

1932 Deed February 4, 1932, Volume 261, Page 290.
Millie Dunlap, et al. (heirs of David Kenley)
TO
Ivaneita L. Martin

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, however it appears that little alteration has been made to the five-bay, two-story, stone dwelling.

4. Alterations and additions: The one-story, gable-roofed wing at the west end of the rear facade was erected prior to 1886, when it also featured a wood porch.

B. Historical Context: The land on which the house at 214 Washington St. sits was part of a 1788 land patent to Hugh and Thomas Wilson. It was probably built as the home and canal-side general store of William McIlwain (born 1799). One of several of his warehouses was located in the rear year. He is listed in tax records as a merchant and occasionally a banker, with an annual income varying from $150 to $250.

McIlwain's family emigrated from Ireland to Philadelphia in 1821, then moved to Salem Township in Westmoreland County and began farming. William McIlwain moved to Baltimore two years later and served as a store clerk before moving on to Pittsburgh in 1826 to become a senior member of McIlwain and Company, grocery/produce dealers. In 1831 he joined his brother Robert, who had moved to Saltsburg the previous year, and undertaken the "general mercantile business." This career lasted about 44 years, and he is credited as having been "a quiet businessman" who "aided materially" in developing the town.

McIlwain was twice married and had three children. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church for more than 39 years, and he served as an officer on the board of Edgewood Cemetery, the Presbyterian burial ground east of Saltsburg. McIlwain was also the first treasurer of the Saltsburg Bridge Company, and later its president. He and other members of the family owned several other properties in Saltsburg, including 202 Point St., which was owned by a later William McIlwain, most likely his son.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This substantial-yet-simple five-bay, side-gable stone dwelling represents traditional, early-nineteenth-century vernacular Pennsylvania construction.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 40' x 20'; the frame ell about 20' x 20' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Walls: Dressed stone blocks and corner quoins; rear addition is frame.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing stone and frame.

5. Chimneys: Two interior brick chimneys, at each gable end.

6. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: Low-relief, plain door surround with modern aluminum awning; this obscures a transom, shallow pediment, and wood lintel. The single, nine-light glazed door and aluminum storm door are both modern.

 b. Windows: Consistent two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash on the first floor and the five-bays of the second floor; the latter are the same width, but shorter than those in the four window bays of the first level.

7. Roof: Side gable with asphalt shingles.

C. Site: The building faces north to Washington Street and the site of the second railroad depot, and is one lot east of the canal right of way. To the east is a fully developed block of mostly canal-related structures.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. JOHN McFARLAND HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5425

Location: 216 Washington St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Charles D. and Veda Lauffer.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This modest and somewhat-altered dwelling served as the longtime residence of prominent Saltsburg physician and druggist, Dr. John McFarland.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1842-43, according to tax records that assess the lot at $150 in 1842, and the "house unfinished" at $500 a year later.

2. Original and subsequent owners: (Deed references is to the Recorder of Deeds Office, County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.) In 1842 John and Elisabeth White sold the property--historically lot No. 23--to Dr. John McFarland, who owned it until at least 1871 (May 11, 1842, Volume 12, Page 216). The next transaction located is Minnie Carnahan's purchase of the property from the First National Bank of Saltsburg (Deed April 9, 1940, Volume 308, Page 186).

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, although the four-bay, two-story brick dwelling appears somewhat altered.

4. Alterations and additions: The two-story frame unit on the rear was original or was added prior to 1886. The front porch was added at a later time, although it surely replaced an original porch of some type. A second front door, in the second bay from the west, has been removed and the space bricked in.

B. Historical Context: Dr. John McFarland (1813-89) built the house at 216 Washington St. in 1842-43. Born in western Pennsylvania, the son of Irish immigrants, he attended Jefferson Medical College and founded a practice in Salem Township, Westmoreland County. He moved to nearby Saltsburg in 1833, and exchanged practices with Dr. Benjamin Sterret, the town's first resident physician.

McFarland's illustrious medical career included service as an Army surgeon for several years, and he was elected president of the Indiana County Medical Society for two years. In 1846 he married Sarah Reed, daughter of Reverend John Reed.

McFarland was a member of the Saltsburg Borough Council in the 1840s, and a burgess in 1841; in 1845-46 he was the Indiana County delegate to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Later, McFarland served as one of the first directors of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and for several years was a director of the Saltsburg Academy. His son, John Reed McFarland, inherited and expanded the family pharmaceutical business, which operated as McFarland and Sons Druggists (Stephenson, Indiana County 175th Anniversary History, 365).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This four-bay, two-story brick dwelling lacks any outstanding form or ornament, yet it represents typical nineteenth-century vernacular construction.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: About 28' x 42' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone and brick (rear addition).

3. Walls: Brick laid in running bond; the addition is vertical-board frame.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick and frame.

5. Porches: A front-entry porch protects the three western bays; one-story, hipped roof, modern iron supports and balustrade, raised concrete-block foundation.

6. Chimneys: Interior brick chimney in rear addition.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The remaining front door, in the westernmost bay, features a four-light transom and modern aluminum door.

b. Windows: The four bays of second-floor fenestration feature two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash. The two bays on the first floor are the same, with one-over-one-light arrangements. All include pronounced sills and lintels, the later adorned with low-relief pedimental woodwork.

8. Roof:

a. Shape: Side-gable with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Flush with wall, deep frame.

C. Site: Sited within a compact block of dwellings, the Dr. John McFarland House is oriented north to Washington Street. Across the street was the second railroad depot, and to the east, other well-developed blocks.



Figure 4.14. North/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WRAY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5426

Location: 500 Market St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: John C. Shirley.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: Situated in a purely residential neighborhood of Saltsburg east of the commercial center and canal/rail route, this later nineteenth-century house reflects the movement toward greater proportions, but no less modest ornament in detached dwellings that typify mid- to late-nineteenth century construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1860-70.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1817 Deed March 11, 1817, Volume 2, Page 840.
Daniel Wray
TO
Robert Wray

1868 Deed April 16, 1868, Volume A35, Page 87.
Robert Wray Sr., and wife Abigail
TO
John M. and Robert Wray Jr.

1869 Deed March 26, 1869, Volume A35 Page 529.
John M. and Anna Wray, Robert and Martha Wray Jr.
TO
Andrew Getty

1907 Will Sept. 11, 1907.
Andrew Getty
TO
Anna Belle Gregg (daughter)

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, however the two-story, rectangular block appears largely original.

4. Alterations and additions: None of significance.

B. Historical Context: Daniel and Robert Wray owned the property until 1868-69; they were early settlers to Saltsburg, appearing in the tax records for Conemaugh Township as early as 1807. The Wrays conveyed the land to Andrew Getty (born 1826), a Universalist minister, in 1868-69. Born in Conemaugh Township, the son of an Irish immigrant carpenter, Getty was a canal boatman, teacher, farmer, and flour miller. His primary occupation became religion, however, after spending two years studying theology under Reverend D. Bacon of Pittsburgh; Getty was ordained in 1862. In 1870 Getty organized the Universalist Church in Saltsburg, with a congregation of fifteen members; he also personally financed a meeting place. Getty's preaching established him as a local "missionary," of sorts. In a series of debates with Reverend A.A. Bunner in 1895, Getty maintained that mankind was not deemed to suffer eternal punishment if "dying in willful disobedience to the gospel of Christ" and that "all mankind shall finally be made holy and happy after this life."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: 500 Market St. is an extremely simple, frame, gable-front dwelling whose boxy, late-nineteenth-century form is highlighted by decorative window and porch elements.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 30' x 34' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone, slightly banked.

3. Walls: Horizontal tongue-in-groove clapboard or weatherboard.

4. Structural system: Wood frame.

5. Porches: The front porch on the north facade is raised, the full width of the facade, one-story, with a flat or slightly hipped roof; the cornice has a zigzag woodwork pattern, features an ogee profile with squared columnar posts, Victorian bracing replete with pendants, and clapboard balustrade.

A full, one-story rear porch is raised with a shed roof, supported by three square posts and a partially enclosed west end.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys, somewhat centered along the ridge line.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front door is located in the westernmost of the three bays; Flanking two-light sidelights with decorative glazing and a transom are framed by a pedimental wood surround. A modern door has been installed.

The rear door is located in the easternmost bay of the south facade and features decorative architrave molding.

b. Windows: The three second-story and two first-floor bays of windows on the north facade are one-over-one-light double-hung wood sash, as are four openings on the west facade and four corner openings on the east facade. These replaced the original two-over-two-light sash that remain intact in the four south-wall windows. All openings are framed with a plain, pedimental architrave trim that echoes the front door surround. A triangular attic window in the front facade contains decorative glazing.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable-front with asphalt shingles.

b. Eaves: Boxed, frame and plain.

C. Site: Located on a corner site east of downtown Saltsburg and the canal/railroad right of way, the Wray House faces north, set amid a mixture of detached historic and modern residences.

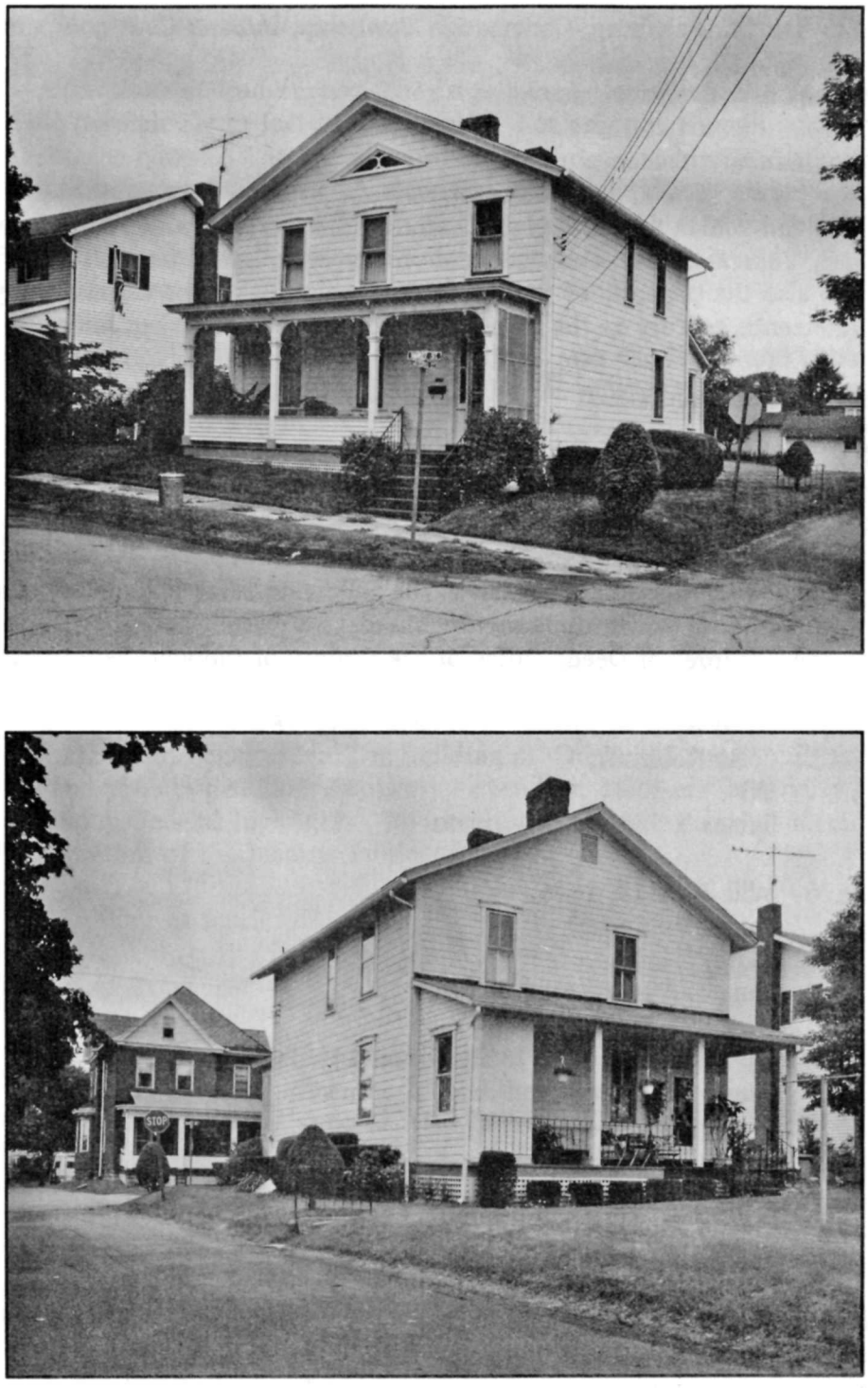


Figure 4.15. North/front (top) and south/rear facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES ROBINSON HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5427

Location: 425 Salt St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Jack and Evelyn Mash.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This vernacular, frame, L-plan dwelling reflects a typical Pennsylvania form with early Federal details--such as the doorway--with later Victorian modifications; it was also the property of the Robinson family during the canal-heyday of the nineteenth century as the home and shop of cabinet-maker James Robinson.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Probably ca. 1828-35; pre-1855.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 49. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1832 Deed April 27, 1832, Volume 7, Page 787.
John Robinson
TO
James Robinson

1876 Will June 13, 1876.
James Robinson
TO
Jane and Margaret Robinson

1882 Deed September 4, 1882, Volume 44, Page 484.
James M. George and Jane C. Johnston
TO
Benjamain S. Kelly

1905 Deed October 19, 1905, Volume 90, Page 260.
B.S. and Jennie Kelly
TO
James Clark Moore

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but the two-story, seven-bay frame building has been somewhat changed from its historic form.

4. Alterations and additions: The large-paned picture windows on the right half of the Salt Street facade are probably not original, though perhaps they were shop windows. The spindlework on the front porch most likely dates from the late nineteenth-century. A secondary door immediately to left of the main door appears too oddly placed to have been part of the original (otherwise rather graceful) design of the building; perhaps this door was added later, as an entrance to the cabinetry-shop portion of the house.

B. Historical Context: The dwelling at 425 Salt St. was the home and cabinetry shop of James B. Robinson throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century, although prior to that the land was in his family. Robert Robinson (1739-1836), a mason, emigrated to Philadelphia from Ireland in 1770. The family included his three sons--John, James, and Robert--who with their families generally settled in Saltsburg. The 1855 Peelor map lists seven Robinson-owned properties; the 1871 Beers map lists eleven.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building at 425 Salt St. was built as a traditional Pennsylvania dwelling: two-story, seven-bay, gable-end-and-wing plan with modest Federal highlights. Its integrity has been somewhat blemished by later alteration of the historic fabric.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 40' x 40' with a 20' ell (Sanborns).

2. Foundations: Stone covered with stucco; slightly banked.

3. Walls: Clapboard.

4. Structural system: Wood frame.

5. Porches: A one-story, raised, frame porch with hipped roof extends across the three northernmost bays of the east Salt Street facade; this later addition features Victorian post bracing and balustrade, a wood deck, lattice infill at the base and a modern iron handrail. The south facade features a shed-roofed entry in the second bay from the west; raised stone step and cantilevered roof

bracing. An open, one-story porch on the interior north facade, features a shed roof and squared supports with modest bracing.

6. Chimneys: There are two brick interior chimneys; one on the east gable end of the ell, and a slope chimney along the back side of the ridge of the main block, opposite the ell.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The vernacular Palladian doorway on the west facade is the finest design characteristic of this building. The center bay is arranged with a single, glazed and paneled door surrounded by side-lights with recessed-panel bases and glazed upper halfs; the elliptical fanlight above contains two lights. The surround framing is broad and molded, with notable bulls'-eye corners. A secondary door on the Salt Street facade is probably original, but is squeezed between the former doorway and a set of windows; it is a smaller width that the primary door, with a glazed upper half and wood panels, with plain, wood architrave trim.

The south facade features two door openings, one that is certainly original is contained in the second bay from the east; it is wood, paneled and topped by a three-light transom. A second door exists on this wall in the second bay from the west, although it appears to be largely a modern alteration. It is unknown how many doorways exist on the rear facade, though there are undoubtedly at least two.

b. Windows: Fenestration across the second-floor of the west (five bays) and south (five bays) primary facades is regular, containing two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash with plain architrave trim.

The first floor, west facade, has a banked arrangement of three windows that are one-over-one-light, double-hung wood sash. The south end of this facade contains display-type windows that appear to have some historic elements, but their date is uncertain. The last bay is unusually wide and contains storefront glazing topped by a three-light transom; next to it is a narrower, single-light opening.

The south facade contains a similarly modified opening in the westernmost bay and the third bay from the west: display-window-like glazing is supported by a recessed wood base panel that appears to be historic to some degree. The easternmost bay contains a window like that found on the second floor.

A three-part bay was appended to north end of the east/rear facade between 1909 and 1927; it is in place today.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Side-gable with gable wing, covered with rolled

asphalt and standing-seam metal.

b. Eaves: Slim and somewhat extended, supported by understated Victorian brackets spaced at about two per bay.

C. Site: Located on a corner site northeast of downtown Saltsburg but one block from the canal/railroad right-of-way, the James Robinson House faces west. Historically on the fringe of town growth, it is situated across from the Presbyterian Church on the south, and additional developed blocks of commercial and residential buildings on the west and north.



Figure 4.16. West/front and south facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THOMAS AND JOHN ROBINSON HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5428

Location: 711 Water St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Ronald J. and Sandra Plahs.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: One of few extant buildings located along the canal route, the House served the same family for more than a half century, including John Robinson, a member of one of Saltsburg's most prolific mercantile families.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1841, according to tax records.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically part of lot No. 183. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1839 Deed April 16, 1839, Volume 10, Page 421.
James Taylor, Esq.
TO
Thomas W. and John Robison (sic, prior to any construction)

1845 Deed April 3, 1845, Volume 13, Page 624.
Thomas and Elizabeth Robinson
TO
John H. Robinson

1885 Deed August 15, 1885, Volume B-48, Page 124.
John H. Robinson
TO
William and J. Edward Wallace (mentions quit-claim deed from Andrew Boggs, April 9, 1850)

1901 Deed October 5, 1901, Volume A-71, Page 610.
Juliet and J. Edward Wallace (executors for Wm. Wallace, et al.)
TO
Ella M. Beatty

1932 Deed March 31, 1932, Volume 258, Page 81.

Ella M. Beatty
TO
Joseph M. Serene

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The building was erected as an L-plan with gable-end chimneys; dormers with windows were probably added later.

4. Alterations and additions: The addition of asbestos-shingle siding and some porch elements are recently. Historically, a full frame porch existed on the front facade.

B. Historical context: The residence at 711 Water St. was erected concurrent to construction of the canal, and throughout most of the nineteenth century it served as the home of John H. Robinson. The Robinsons were one of the earliest pioneer families to arrive in the Saltsburg area. Robert Robinson (1739-1836), John H.'s grandfather, emigrated from Ireland to Philadelphia in 1770, and supported the family as a mason. His sons were John, James, and Robert; Robert's nine children included John H. and Thomas W. Robinson, both owners of the property at one point.

Thomas W. Robinson erected the building around 1840, and five years later conveyed the property to his brother John; the latter Robinson occupied the house until 1885. Both brothers were members of the Saltsburg Borough Council in the 1840s.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This modest, five-bay, one and one-half story dwelling typifies vernacular design of the period, with gable-end chimneys and dormers; it has been significantly reworked over the years.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair, although the exterior cladding is synthetic shingles.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 45' x 15'; ell is 20' wide (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone with dressed quoin corners; partially banked.

3. Walls: Asbestos-shingle siding.

4. Structural system: Frame.

5. Porches: A modern one-story shed-roofed porch extends across the central three bays of the front facade; the roof is covered with asphalt shingles,

supported on plain wood posts. An integrated porch exists on the interior facade of the ell, underneath the dual-pitch roof.

6. Chimneys: Two interior gable-end brick chimneys.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The front facade features a central, single doorway; a second entrance is located at the back porch.

 b. Windows and shutters: The first floor features six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash; the attic story contains one-over-one-light windows in each of the seven dormers.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Gable with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice, eaves: Plain and simple box with shallow returns.

 c. Dormers: There are seven dormer windows in the attic story; five on the main block and two on the wing; each with one-over-one-light wood sash.

C. Description of Interior: The interior of the building at 711 Water St. is arranged on a center-hall plan and includes a modest stairway.

D. Site: 711 Water St. faces 60' on the east flank of the canal route; Water Street is to its west; Market Street and Coal Alley border it on the north and south, respectively.

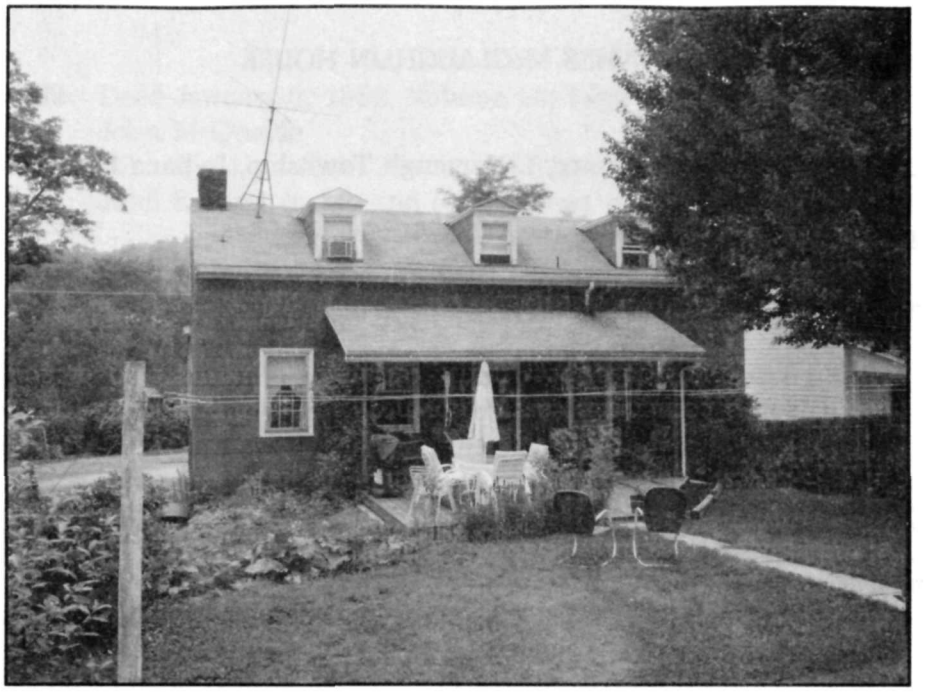


Figure 4.17. HABS No. PA-5428: Thomas and John Robinson House, east/front facade.



Figure 4.18. HABS No. PA-5429: James McGlaughlin House, east/front facade.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES McGLAUGHLIN HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5429

Location: 803 Water St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Walter K. and Mae Parson Brown.

Present Use: One- or two-family residence.

Significance: The house at 803 Water St., erected to face the canal in the 1830s, is notable as a "double house" with symmetrical interior layout behind a traditional six-bay facade; it was thus occupied by two families for more than a decade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1833-40.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 184. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1833 Deed December 25, 1833, Volume Pro O S & T, Page 113.
Jacob Drum (at suit of Kingston Lightner)
TO
James McGlaughlin (no mention of buildings)

1840 Deed January 5, 1840, Volume 14, Page 2.
James McGlaughlin
TO
Frederick Dunhouse (Deed mentions buildings and describes the north half of parcel as part of a larger lot No. 184; it cuts through the center of a house built by Jacob Newhouse in 1833-40 on the southern boundary of the property; it was legally divided in the 1840s with the building categorized as a "double house.")

1846 Deed January 5, 1846, Volume 14, Page 4.
Frederick Dunhouse
TO
John Hamer (north half of property)

1850 Deed February 6, 1850, Volume 16, Page 387.
John Hamer
TO
John McQuaide (north half of property)

1852 Deed January 8, 1852, Volume 18, Page 185.
John McQuaide
TO
John Earhart (north and south halves of property are hereafter one)

1865 Deed August 1, 1865, Volume 31, Page 497.
Soloman and Martin Earhart (administrator for John Earhart estate)
TO
William McQuiston

1865 Deed October 2, 1865, Volume 31, Page 498.
William McQuiston
TO
William G. McConnell

1872 Deed January 2, 1872, Volume A-38, Page 189.
William G. and Dorcus McConnell
TO
William D. Cooper

1883 Deed September 15, 1883, Volume A-46, Page 226.
William D. Cooper (by trustee Jamieson)
TO
Samuel R. Bingham

1892 Deed July 20, 1892, Volume B-57, Page 351.
Fannie Bingham
TO
John Cunningham

1926 Deed September 23, 1926, Volume 244, Page 422.
Charles M. Cunningham
TO
Harriet M. Cunningham

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. It served as a six-bay bilaterally symmetrical house, with central front door and flanking, matched room arrangements and chimneys. It originally faced east to the canal, but current occupation is reoriented so the west facade serves as the front.

4. Alterations and additions: The house has been added onto several times. Between 1871 and 1897, a one-story addition was added to the middle-rear portion of the building; this is currently two stories high, so the addition floor was probably added later still. Between 1897 and 1909, a back entrance porch was added to the north corner. Between 1909 and 1927, a second back-entry

porch was added to the south corner, and a one-story front porch was built across the center four bays of the canal-side facade. The house is encased in aluminum (or synthetic) siding, which discourages clarification of the successive alterations.

B. Historical Context: Several people significant to Saltsburg's history have occupied the residence at 803 Water St. From 1840 to 1858--when John Earhart acquired both halves of the property--it was considered two separate parcels; it is possible, therefore, that from its inception the building served as a "double house" intended for use by two families--as it was by Jacob Newhouse and Frederick Dunhouse.

James McGlaughlin, a storekeeper, owned the property when the house was constructed; McGlaughlin sold the north half of the lot in 1840. Like one subsequent owner, John "Major" McQuaide, he was a borough council member in the 1840s. McQuaide was engaged in a general-trade partnership with lawyer Harrison P. Laird, for which they owned a warehouse on Point Street. With Francis Laird Jr. (Harrison's brother), McQuaide operated a gristmill at the foot of Market Street. McQuaide was also a member of the Saltsburg Section Boat Committee in 1848.

In 1852 Earhart acquired the north portion of the building; he operated a tannery in the back of his home (Arms and White). (This theory is muddied, however, by the 1856 Peelor map that indicates the property as a tannery--but called Reed and McFarland. And, the 1871 map suggests the tannery is actually south of 803 Water St.)

Newhouse owned the south portion of the building from 1848 to 1858. One of several canal-boat builders in town, he maintained a construction yard above Point Street. John Hamer owned the property from 1846-50; he was a weaver with income of $100 in 1849.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building at 803 Water St. is an unusual example of a double house, as well as an unadorned, vernacular-styled, six-bay, rectangular plan typical of canal-era dwelling.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 50' x 20'; the rear ells total about 30' x 20'.

2. Foundation: High-quality dressed stone and cinderblock; partially banked.

3. Walls: Clapboard covered with synthetic or aluminum siding.

4. Structural systems: Wood frame.

5. Porches: A one-story wooden porch with shed roof extends across the four central bays of the front, canal-side facade. Added between 1909 and 1927, it is plain except for beveled wood supports. The side doorways are topped by raised, shed-roofed porches.

6. Chimneys: Interior brick chimneys exist at each gable end.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: There are two front entrances, at the southernmost and northernmost bays of the east/front facade; two side entrances in the rear addition, on the north and south facade; and one rear door.

 b. Windows: The former front facade's fenestration is regular, two-over-two-light double-hung sash that is not original; except for the second bay, which is different. These same windows are largely found on the former rear facade, along with miscellaneous irregular fenestration.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Side gable with paired rear ells with shed roofs; the latter are covered with wide, horizontally laid strips of asphalt.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The James McGlaughlin House faced the old canal route to the east, down a short sharp slope from what is now the filled-in right-of-way. Now the front of the building is reoriented west to Water Street. To the north is a lot and Coal Alley, with the immediate surroundings open, with large trees; to the south lies a residence.

2. Outbuildings: Behind the house there once existed a one-story frame building that probably served as a stable or carriage house, then later a garage.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MATHIAS ROMBACH HOUSE
(Saltsburg General Hospital)

HABS No. PA-5430

Location: 321 Basin St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Guy and Dorothy Miller.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This building, which was occupied as a residence by merchant Mathias Rombach for the last half of the ninteenth century and subsequently served as Saltsburg's first hospital, represents a large but modest Federal-style vernacular structure that reflects progressive enlargement and modification over the years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1838-50. Mathias Rombach acquired the land in two sections, the first thirty-five acres in 1837, and twenty-eight additional acres in 1850. It is not known whether the building was constructed before or after the two parcels were combined.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot Nos. 1, 2, and 3 in the Riverview Addition. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1837 Deed July 12, 1837, Volume 11, Page 634.
Stewart Steel (administrator for Thomas Johnston)
TO
Mathias Rombach (35 acres, part woodland, adjoining Saltsburg)

1850 Deed January 5, 1850, Volume 20, Page 459.
Andrew F. Boggs (for his mother)
TO
Mathias Rombach (28 acres adjoining Saltsburg on the east)

1908 Deed October 26, 1908, Volume 109, Page 321.
Elizabeth R. Martin
TO
Dr. E.B. Earhart

1915 Deed May 6, 1915, Volume 146, Page 202.
Walter G. Alcorn (administrator for Dr.E.B. Earhart estate)

TO
Elvira Earhart (deed names it as Saltsburg General Hospital)

1917 Deed November 26, 1917, Volume 162, Page 246.
Elvira Earhart
TO
James E., Nannie B., and Mary E. Love

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. The five-bay building was an L-shaped block prior to various additions.

4. Alterations and additions: The northernmost four bays, with its attached ell, were added after 1871, as were the pair of Italianate porches on the south facade. With the agglomerated additions, the building has become a modified U-plan, nine bays long on the main facade.

B. Historical Context: The building at 321 Basin St. was built, and served for many years, as the home of the Rombach family. Sometime after 1871 the building was substantially enlarged. Matthias Rombach was a "dealer in groceries, hardware, [a] watch maker, [and a] jeweler" (Beers). He donated one acre of land to the congregation of the St. Matthew's Catholic Church for the construction of a new facility; and he gave one-half acre to Saltsburg for use as its first burial ground. Rombach's daughter married local stone mason John Martin.

On August 15, 1905, Dr. E. Bruce Earhart converted the building from a residence into Saltsburg General Hospital. Earhart, a native of Indiana County, studied and practiced at an Ohio institution--specializing in surgery and preventive medicine--before settling in Saltsburg in 1892. He was also a member of the I.O.O.F. and the Presbyterian Church. As a medical facility with accommodations for thirty-five patients, its location on the edge of town minimized the threat of highly infectious disease, and it was "equipped with all the modern appliances for the treatment and care of the sick" (Stewart, 635).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The additive building at 321 Basin St. is a brick vernacular Federal form with a period frame addition, though its most notable feature is a pair of Italianate porches added to the front facade during the late nineteenth century.

2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Foundation: Stone, partially banked.

2. Walls: Brick laid in Flemish-bond pattern in original block; addition is constructed of brick laid in six-course American bond; corner additions are clapboard.

3. Structural system: Load-bearing brick and wood frame.

4. Porches: On the west elevation there are two raised, one-story frame porches centered over the entry and flanking windows of each residence. These boast Victorian details that include columnar supports; a wide, bracketed cornice and posts; gingerbread balustrade, and stone steps.

 The interior facade of the original wing features an integrated, two-story frame porch under a continuous roofline; it is plain and in poor condition, having lost its turned posts. An exterior stair exists between the two levels here. The one-story entry porch on the south facade, Basin Street, has a gable roof, wood supports and a brick base.

5. Chimneys: There are six brick chimneys in all: one on the interior of each gable-end wall of the original block and its ell; one off-center ridge chimney in the block telescoping from the original; and one single stack in the northeast corner of that unit that probably vents a stove.

6. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The main doorway in the south facade is Federal, with a single paneled door, flanking sidelights, and a solid transom (originally glazed).

 A second door on this facade appears to date from the time of the addition. At least two doors exist on the rear facade, first floor; and one on the second floor, in the porch ell.

 b. Windows: Modern aluminum one-over-one-light double-hung-sash are installed throughout the structure. On the front facade this includes seven window bays on the first floor, and nine bays on the second; and four bays on the south facade. The rear (east) and north facades feature irregular placement and form of fenestration that dates from at least the late nineteenth century. Lintels and sills are wood.

7. Roof: Gable roofs throughout; coverings included standing-seam metal and asphalt shingles.

C. Site: Located north of the Saltsburg Borough line, in the north corner of the intersection of Basin and High streets, the original L-plan faced the cemetery to the west, probably the one founded on land donated by Rombach; the balance of the town is to the south; and nothing substantial exists to the east or north.

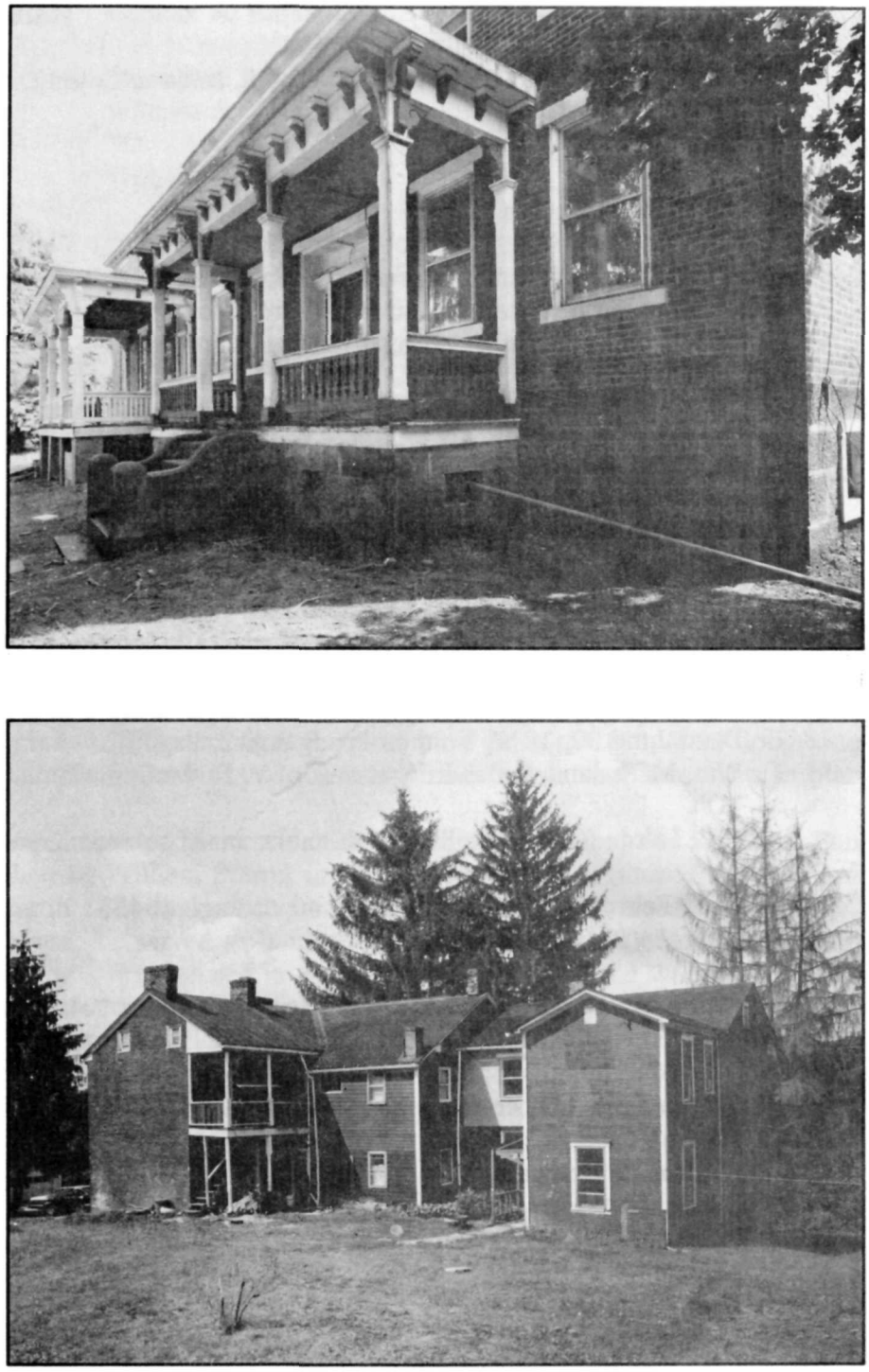


Figure 4.19. West/front (top) and east/rear facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SALTSBURG
(Lions' Activity Center)

HABS No. PA-5431

Location: 214 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Saltsburg Lions.

Present Use: Lions Club Activity Center.

Significance: This was the first bank building erected in Saltsburg, and it represents an excellent example of Victorian commercial architecture coupled with occasional Greek Revival and eclectic features; it is largely intact.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1875 (date plate on facade).

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 4. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1847 Deed June 30, 1847, Volume Pro S & T 2, Page 70.
Wm. McFarland (by sheriff, at suit of W.H. McConnell)
TO
H.P. Laird (frame dwelling and stable, razed to accommodate bank)

1878 Deed February 16, 1878, Volume 40 A, Page 464.
Harrison P. Laird
TO
Benton K. Jamieson, et al. (First National Bank of Saltsburg founders)

1890 Deed November 29, 1890, Volume 54 A, Page 352.
Benton Jamieson, et al. as First National Bank of Saltsburg
TO
William R. McIlwain

1893 Deed April 14, 1893, Volume 58A, Page 560.
William R. McIlwain
TO
First National Bank of Saltsburg

1945 Deed February 20, 1945, Volume 343, Page 192.
First National Bank, Saltsburg, PA (formerly First National Bank of Saltsburg, a corporation)

TO
William A. Rumbaugh

1947 Deed May 27, 1947, Volume 363, Page 233.
William A. Rumbaugh
TO
William F. Fennell

1969 Deed April 18, 1969, Volume 595, Page 233.
William F. Fennell
TO
Saltsburg Lions Activity Center, Inc.

3. Contractor, builder: James Hudson of Saltsburg was the contractor; H.F. Stear the stone mason. The metal cornice and brackets were supplied by Lacock and Irwin of Allegheny City. Plaster work was by Hart and Harris.

4. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but the narrow, rectangular, one-story commercial building remains largely unchanged.

5. Alterations and additions: The upper portion of the display window appears to have been altered in some way, and originally may have contained decorative glass or different signage. Sometime prior to 1891, a 25' long, one-story brick addition was made to the rear of the facade, and it remains in place today.

B. Historical Context: The town's first financial institution, the Saltsburg Bank, was established by William Sterret in 1871. Sterret had organized the Fairbanks Coal Company in 1886 and subsequently served the banking needs of company workers out of his house; he served as bank president for ten years (Palmer and Miller, 36-37). The bank was first housed in an addition attached to the west side of Robert Taylor's house at 211 Point St. Harrison Laird owned the property until three years after completion of the building, when he conveyed it to the bank partners (deeds). Laird, an attorney, was also involved in a general-trade concern with John McQuaide. By 1927 the bank building was used simply as an office (Sanborns).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Victorian and eclectic detailing highlights this otherwise narrow, one-story and modest commercial brick storefront.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 25' x 60'.

2. Foundation: High-quality, dressed stone; slightly banked.

3. Walls: Brick laid in six-course American bond on all facades. An unusual and elaborate entablature demarks the top of the first floor; it is nearly full, constructed of wood, and includes a wide frieze with modillions that descend into stout, attached columns; paired end brackets rest on rough-cut stone "capitals"; and there is dentil coursing on the fascia. The termini are marked by mini-gable-front temple forms.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.

5. Chimneys: Two small, brick interior chimneys.

6. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: A single glazed door is located in the east corner of the facade; it features a recessed base panel and modified, blank transom. The door features an ornate etched-brass (or similar alloy) handle.

 b. Windows: A large display window occupies most of the ground-floor portion of the Point Street facade. The upper portion of the window, that now contains "Saltsburg Lions Activity Center," may have originally contained different signage or decorative glazing.

7. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Flat, covering out of view.

 b. Cornice: A wide, heavily bracketed cornice includes large modillions and a projected central pediment with raked cornice, supported by two pairs of exaggerated brackets that overlap a decorative stringcourse. At the corners of the roof, atop the cornice, are finial-like iron urns raised on blocks. A large, central date plate reads "A.D. 1875."

C. Site: The First National Bank of Saltsburg building faces north, nestled among neighboring buildings on each side and across Point Street.

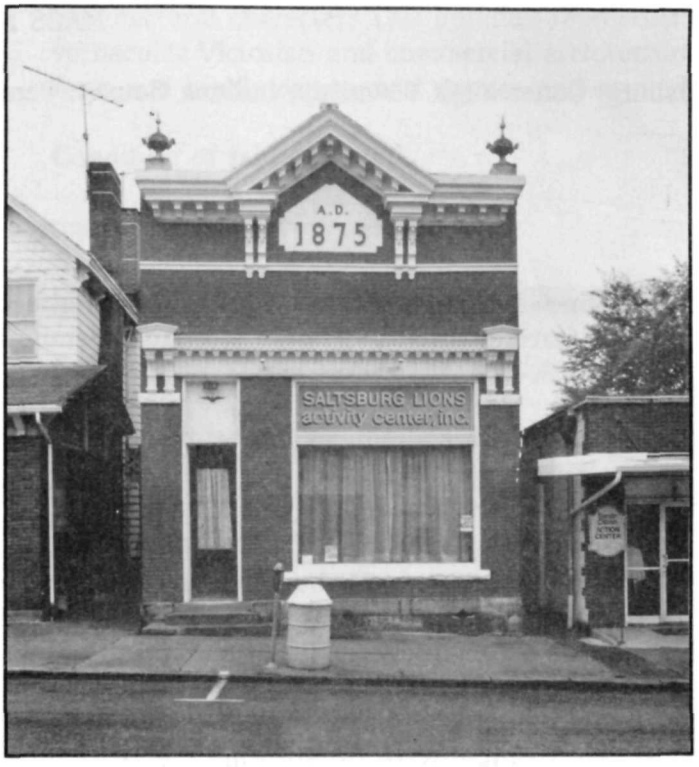




Figure 4.20. North/front facade (top) and detail of cornice.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

P.D. SHUPE HARDWARE STORE

HABS No. PA-5432

Location: 202 Point St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Gildo Bertetto.

Present Use: Warehouse.

Significance: This is an exceptionally fine--and largely intact--example of a vernacular commercial building that features ornate Victorian storefront detailing of wood, rather than the typical metal.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Probably 1880s. A frame building that served as a warehouse occupied this site off and on as early as the 1840s, but tax records and architectural styling indicate a construction date of about 1880.

2. Original and subsequent owners: P.D. Shupe, the son-in-law of merchant William McIlwaine, owned this hardware store during the last half of the nineteenth century. The sequence of deeds and ownership exists on file at Historic Saltsburg, but it was not available for inclusion in this document.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, however the building has retained its two-story frame rectangular form with an asymmetrical storefront.

4. Alterations and additions: The building has been little changed since its construction in the late-nineteenth century. Historically there have been two one-story additions to the rear facade; one remains in place.

B. Historical Context: Several members of the McIlwain family, which emigrated from Ireland to Saltsburg, worked as merchants. Shupe was the son-in-law of William McIlwaine, who opened a competing store across the alley. 202 Point St. remained in the family until after 1937.

The first and mezzanine levels of the building were restricted to the general store operation. From at least the 1880s until 1909, the second floor housed the Armory Hall, for which it may have been originally designed; for a short time a printing shop also occupied this space (Sanborns).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building represents an excellent example of both vernacular Victorian and commercial architecture, with its four-bay, rectangular form and highly ornamental cornice and ground-floor storefront.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Approximately 30' x 85'.

2. Foundation: Stone (limestone, sandstone, granite).

3. Walls: Horizontal weatherboard; first-floor storefront is predominantly glass.

4. Structural system: Framing is used for the general structure; the interior mezzanine floor is supported by suspended steel rods.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Modilions and highly ornamental paired brackets atop the pilasters articulate the cornice above the storefront story.

There are two entrances on the front/Point Street side; one on the west facade. The first floor, front facade features a single doorway in the easternmost bay that leads to stairs that rise to the second story and mezzanine levels. It is single, decorated with wood panels and is topped by a rectangular transom.

The commercial entrance is located on an off-center, display-window composition: a set of double wood doors with full-height round-topped glazing; recessed and flanked by the canted, display windows. Above the door is a two-light rectangular transom, narrow wood cornice with dentil molding, and a second, single-light transom.

A blocked doorway with architrave trim modeled after that around the windows exists in the southwest corner of the west facade.

b. Windows: The ground-level storefront features full-height glazing, and articulated vertical features: three asymmetrically placed pilasters on the front facade, and a fourth on the west facade at the window terminus. These have decorative, recessed panels, acorn-and-leaf motif detailing, and paneled "capitals." These elements are unusual in that they are made of wood rather than the more typical metal. A steel beam probably exists at the cornice (junction between first and second floors) line; and eight slender, modestly ornamental, iron rods serve as vertical supports at the window intersections.

The four bays of second-story fenestration on the front and side facades, and two bays on the rear facade, are identical: tall, two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash with segmental-arched surrounds that

feature keystone-like carved elements. The three identical windows on the first floor of the west facade also retain three-panel wood shutters.

7. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Flat roof; covering undetermined; plain parapet on all but rear facades.

 b. Cornice, eaves: Elaborate cornice extends around the main and side facades features generous bracketing; corners feature paneled pilasters and exaggerated, carved brackets.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

 a. The rectangular first floor is divided width-wise into two rooms. A wall separates this space from the stairway located along the east wall.

 b. The mezzanine level consists of a suspended floor area around the perimeter of the plan above the first floor space; a central rectangular space preserves the full first-floor height. Access is gained via the stairs located along the east wall.

 c. The second floor contains two large rooms divided width-wise, with a smaller third space in between. Access is gained via the stairs located along the east wall.

2. Stairways: One stairway runs along the east wall of the building, accessing the mezzanine and second levels; it is separated from the main space by a wall.

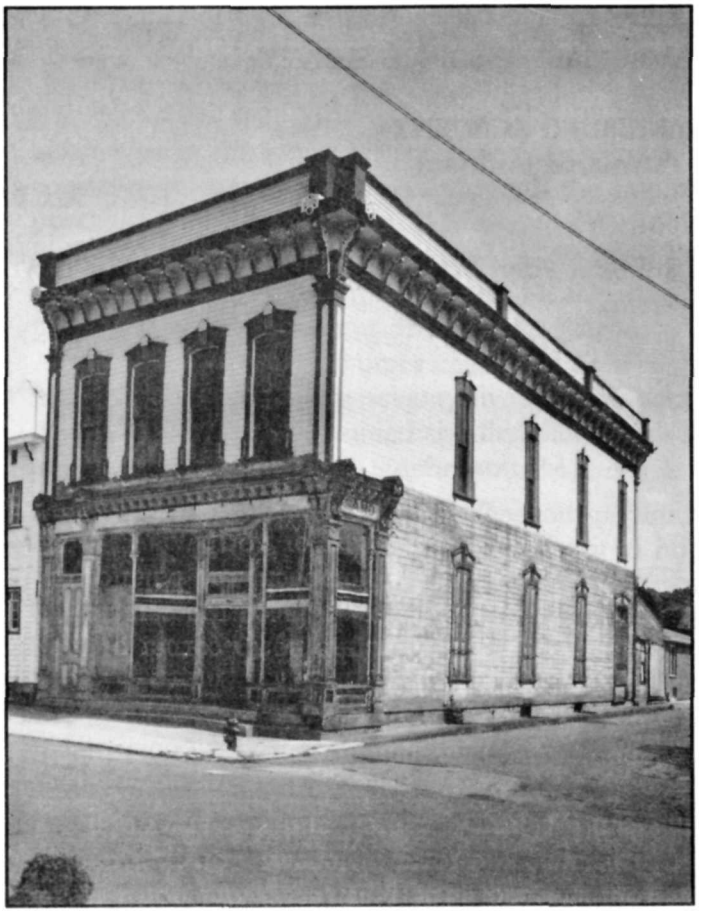
3. Flooring: Wood floorboards throughout.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: First floor, unknown. Mezzanine, floor-to-ceiling vertical paneling. Second floor, plaster and lathe with wainscoating that extends about 5' up the wall, simple molding. The first-floor ceiling is wood or sheet metal; the second-floor ceiling is wood/plaster.

5. Openings: Windows: The front (north) facade at the mezzanine level is fully glazed, allowing for generous visibility and natural lighting.

6. Decorative features, trim: Wainscoated walls on the second floor. Miscellaneous suspended light fixtures throughout building.

D. Site: The building at 202 Point St. is oriented north to Point street. The canal right of way is to the west, while to the north, east and south are well-developed town blocks.



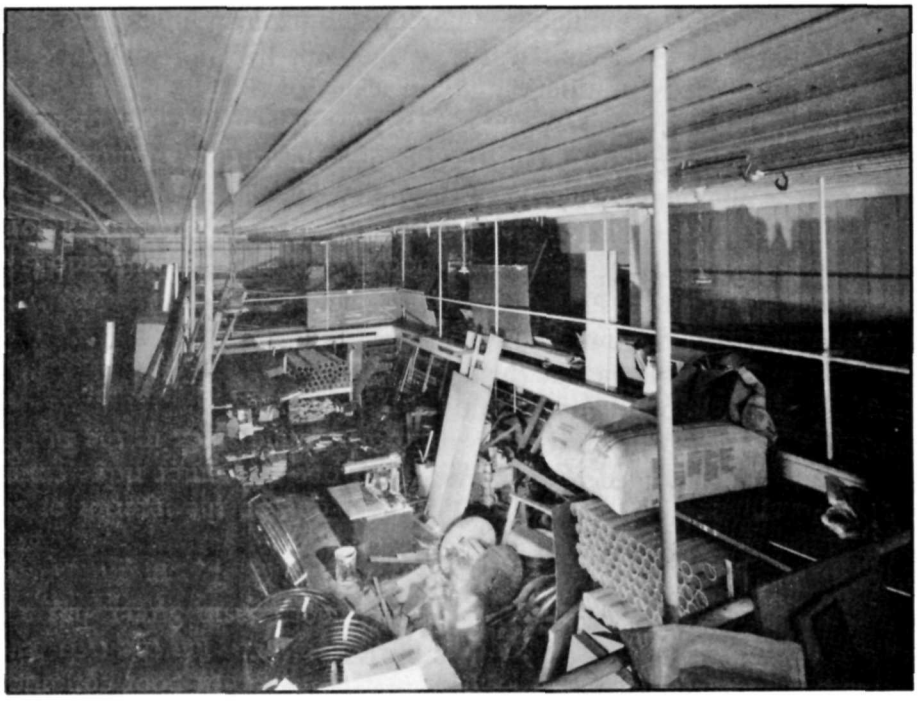


Figure 4.21. North/front and west facades (top) and interior view of mezzanine.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SALTSBURG ACADEMY
(Memorial Institute)

HABS No. PA-5433

Location: Northeast corner High Street at Point Street, Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Paul and Hulda Baker.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This formidable brick building housed was was for many years the first and only academic institution in town, the Saltsburg Male and Female Academy. As a private undertaking, and later as part of the public school system, the building served local boys and girls throughout the second half of the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1851.

2. Original and subsequent owners: Deed references were unobtainable, but three known owners include the Presbyterian Church, which purchased the academy building in 1870, when it became the Memorial Institute. In the 1920s boatbuilder George Rhea purchased it from the church. And sometime prior to 1980 Paul Baker acquired the building.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but it is apparent that little of the building's historic gable-front, two-story brick form has been altered.

4. Alterations and additions: Physical evidence suggests that at one time the building featured a partial, one-story porch across the five bays of the south facade. There is also evidence of the frame pediment that once existed on the structure above the second story on the west gable end. Also, at one time steps of some sort must have led up to the raised west entrance, where none exist today. A cupola was located near the west end of the block; it, too, is gone.

5. Builder, contractor: Stone mason John Martin and contractor S.S. Jamison.

B. Historical Context: The Saltsburg Academy building was erected in 1851 and opened the following year; it was one of the earliest established educational

academies in the region at the time (Arms and White, 384). The building's $3,300 construction cost was financed through the sale of stock at $25 a share. Share purchasers included William J. Stewart; J.W. Robinson; S.S. Jamison, contractor for the building; Reverend W.W. Woodend, a Presbyterian minister who served as principal until 1859; J.S. Robinson; and John M. Marshall, a canal-boat builder and operator of passenger packet lines out of Saltsburg (Stewart, 225).

The school, sometimes called the Saltsburg Male and Female Academy, opened in May 1852 with about seventy-five students, an enrollment level that remained stable through 1881; boys occupied the first floor, girls the second. Tuition was $6 to $10 per five-month semester (Stephenson, 14). While the Presbyterian Church was being completed in 1874, the Academy was used for religious services (Stewart, 225-26).

After the Presbyterian reunion in 1869, with the assistance of the General Assembly and support from the $5 million memorial fund, schools became acceptable property to donate to the church. Thus, in 1870 the building was acquired by the congregation of the Presbyterian Church, which renamed it the Memorial Institute a year later. Woodend served as principal. From 1890 until 1912 it functioned as part of public school system. Carpenter A.E. Ray used it as his shop in 1913. During the 1920s, woodworker and boatbuilder George Rhea owned the building, and his family occupied the second floor.

Stone mason John Martin (born 1820) emigrated in 1834 with his family from Ireland, and settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His career included work on the Sandy and Beaver Canals, an apprenticeship in the stone-cutting trade with Pagan and Company of Pittsburgh, and bridge construction. He arrived in Saltsburg in the early 1840s and served for six years as a foreman mason on the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad. In Saltsburg Martin was responsible for several notable buildings including the Soldier's Monument in Edgewood Cemetery, St. Matthew's Church, and the Western Pennsylvania Railroad Station, as well as this school. He was treasurer of the Saltsburg Bridge Company, vice president of the cemetery organization, and a borough council member. Martin's stone-cutting yard was on Point Street just east of the canal (Arms and White, 383, 391).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The conservative styling and materials typify nineteenth-century vernacular academic and semi-public building forms: gable-front prominence, raised foundation, and multiple entries with modest Federal detailing.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 30' x 52' long.

2. Foundation: Largely dressed stone; partially banked, high foundation.

3. Walls: Brick laid in five-course American bond.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.

5. Porches: A one-story, hip-roofed porch protects the north entrance, the two westernmost bays of this facade: foundation unknown, raised wood deck, plain wood supports.

6. Chimneys: One brick ridge chimney located toward the west end of the block.

7. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: There are three standard entrances and one large service doorway. The primary doorway on the west facade is the most formal: double doors of paneled wood with a surround that includes six-light sidelights atop recessed frame base panels; above is a four-light transom with carved dentil coursing.

 The secondary doors on the north and south facades are similarly paneled, double, and wood, but are only topped by a four-light transom. Large service doors occupy most of east wall in the form of sliding wood panels.

 b. Windows: Two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash exist in all five bays of the side facades and three bays of the gable-end facades on the second story; all feature plain stone sills and prominent, painted lintels.

8. Roof:

 a. Shape: Gable-front with asphalt shingles.

 b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed wood eaves are prominent only on the gable ends, where they are wide and raked.

C. Site: Situated atop a steep hill one block from the center of Saltsburg, the building's formal front is the west gable-end facing west to High Street; the property is bounded here and along Point Street by a rubble-stone retaining wall, and is otherwise fairly isolated.

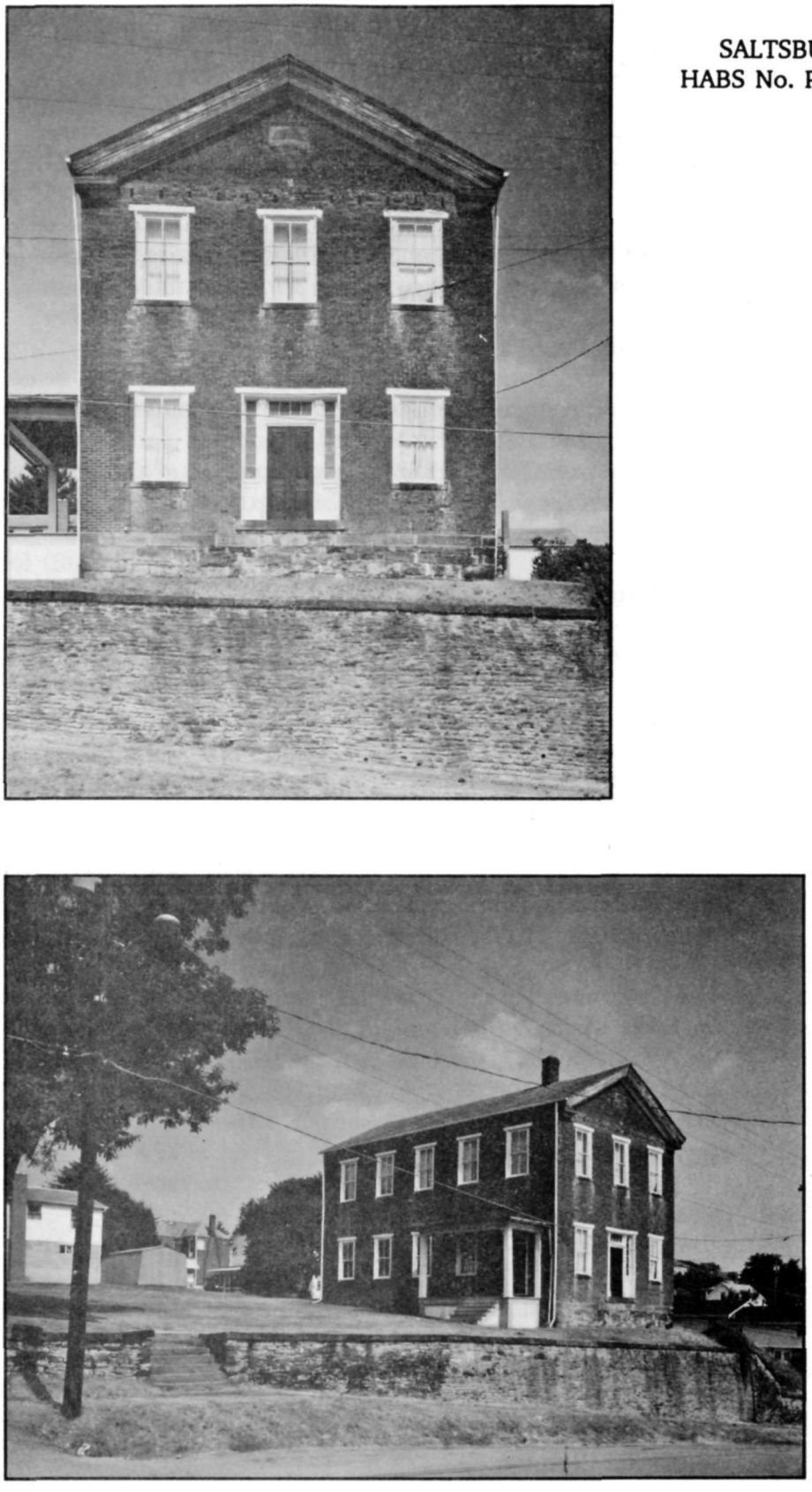


Figure 4.22. West/front (top) and west/north facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Masonic Hall, White Church)

HABS No. PA-5434

Location: Southwest corner of High Street and Ash Alley, Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Williamson Club Inc.

Present Use: Masonic Hall.

Significance: This simple, gable-front frame structure served as one of the first permanent church buildings for local Presbyterian workship, a popular denomination in Saltsburg.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1870.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 60. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1850 Deed of Release, February 1, 1850, Volume 16, Page 388.
Andrew Boggs, Elizabeth Drum, Mary Miles
TO
Moses Hart

1857 Deed May 13, 1857, Volume 23, Page 237.
Moses Hart
TO
Elizabeth White

1860 Deed February 11, 1860, Volume 25, Page 632.
Elizabeth White
TO
Daniel Rhea, et al., trustees for the United Presbyterian Church

1984 Deed July 6, 1984, Volume 854, Page 462.
Trustees for the United Presbyterian Church
TO
Williamson Club Inc.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located, but it appears the one-story, rectangular mass is largely unchanged.

4. Alterations and additions: The rear/west-entrance stairway and door were added at an unknown date; the transom above the main doorway has been covered with a wood panel.

B. Historical Context: The United Presbyterian church, initially called the Associate Presbyterian Church, was one of the earliest congregations with its own building in Saltsburg. Its first building, a brick structure that dated from 1843, was replaced when the present builidng was erected in 1870 for $3,000. This coincides with the transferral of the Saltsburg Academy to the Presbyterian Church and its renaming as the Memorial Institute; while this church was being built, services were held in the school (Stewart, 339).

The Associate Presbyterian sect of the Presbyterian church was originally formed in Scotland as the Seceder Church, which broke from the Church of Scotland in 1743. In the United States this branch was called the Associate Presbyterian, and it was especially strong in South Carolina. The group was shortlived, however, and it eventually merged with the United Presbyterian branch.

Olivor Katz served solely as pastor of this congregation in 1871. Masons were established in Saltsburg as early as 1868, though they did not acquire this building until 1984.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The one-story, three-bay by four-bay frame structure is a simple gable-front block highlighted by simple wood ornamentation found on the window and door surrounds, and in the stained-glass windows.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 30' x 50' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone, sharply banked.

3. Walls: Clapboard with vinyl siding.

4. Structural system: Wood frame.

5. Chimneys: An exterior brick chimney is located near the southeast corner.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The primary entrance is in the central bay of the east facade. A modern double wood door is framed by architrave trim that flares at the top and rises into a pediment form--to the same height as the flanking windows; the two-part transom above the door contains recessed panels, although originally it was glazed.

Side doors located on the north and south facades had similar pediments, though the one above the former door has been removed.

b. Windows: Window surrounds match that of the High Street doorway, with pediments and slightly battered "pilasters." The pattern of lights on the High Street windows is one large pane with several small panes around its periphery, in a Queen Anne style; the sash are double hung.

The pediment window is octagonal and is framed by abstracted Classical molding in the shape of a flat-based octagon.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Low-pitch gable-front with asphalt shingles.

b. Eaves: Slim boxed eaves, slightly extended.

C. Site: Located on the southwest corner of High Street and Ash Aley, the east-facing building is banked into the steep grade of the site, which provides an excellent view down the hill to the Conemaugh River. Across High Street is the former Academy building.



Figure 4.23. East/front and north facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SONS OF ZEBEDEE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HABS No. PA-5435

Location: 422 Salt St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present Use: Church.

Significance: The Sons of Zebedee church represents a modest example of vernacular Carpenter Gothic styling, including such features as a center steeple with bell tower, pointed-arch stained-glass windows, and an exposed-beam interior.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1878 (cited in church history).

2. Original and subsequent owners: The church was built for and has remained in the hands of the congregation.

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located; however it appears that the original one-story, gable-front brick form has been retained despite the radical modification of the steeple.

4. Alterations and additions: After 1927, a brick, gable-roofed building was erected on the rear of the lot, perpendicular to the church block; basement rooms and a corridor link the two structures. The tower exterior has been altered by the removal of a slender spire and pinnacles, and clapboard siding has replaced more decorative cladding (old views).

B. Historical Context: The Lutheran religion, though not common in Saltsburg, was historically widespread throughout western Pennsylvania. In the 1790s a large influx of Lutheran families moved west to Westmoreland County (which at that time included Indiana County) from the eastern counties of Lancaster, Berks, and Franklin (Arms and White, 223-24). The Evangelical Lutheran sect was founded in 1846 in the United States by a Norwegian immigrant, Elling Eielsen. This sect diverged from the mainstream Lutheran church in its belief that a prospective member of the church must prove his conversion before he could join. As a consequence, the group was slow to grow, and remains very small today (Encyclopedia of American Religions, 104).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A late-nineteenth-century example of vernacular

Victorian church design, specifically the textural-but-simple Carpenter Gothic, as seen its three-bay by five-bay center-steeple plan, pointed-arch windows and patterned slate roof.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: One-story, about 35' x 55' (Sanborns).

2. Foundation: Stone.

3. Walls: Brick laid in five-course common bond with concrete or masonry coping atop symbolic brick buttresses; frame on upper bell tower.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.

5. Chimneys: Two brick slope chimneys on the south side of gable, at the east and west ends.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance on the east facade is through the tower base, which serves as a vestibule. Double wood doors with squared and pointed-arch panels echo lancet-window patterns; these and a similarly paneled "transom" are set deep within a paneled wood surround that continues up to form a pointed arch, the upper portion of which features a stone surround.

An off-center rear/west door features a narrow, single, wood-paneled door topped by a transom, all fit into a pointed-arch framework.

b. Windows: On the primary block, the north and south facades feature four bays of tall, pointed-arch windows with stained glass, the bottom panel of which serves as an awning opening. These feature brick surrounds, while those on the front facade have stone surrounds. Similar openings are found flanking the tower on the east facade. Each window contains stained glass, and was sponsored by church members, although evidently commissioned as a set. Smaller versions of these windows are found at the second and third levels of the north and south elevations of the tower. A quatrefoil-shaped stained-glass window within a circular stone surround appears above the front door, and above the altar on the rear/west elevation.

7. Roof:

a. Shape: Steeply pitched gable-front with central tower; covered with

slate shingles in a diamond pattern.

b. Eaves: Narrow, but slightly deeper-than-average eaves supported by wooden brackets.

c. Tower: Brick structure with frame roof section; two steeply pitched cross gables pierce a pyramidal roof that has been amputated above to form a polygonal terminus. The sides are clapboard with louvered openings. (This replaces an earlier tower with pinnacles and finials at the corners.)

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The undivided rectangular plan is entered through an exterior tower vestibule. The west end of the room contains the altar, which is set upon a slightly raised and central projecting platform, surrounded by a balustrade. At the east end of the room is a projecting choir loft and perhaps an organ; this is partially screened from view by a wood balustrade. Ten rows of pews divided by a central aisle fill the interim area.

2. Stairways: A wood stairway in the southeast corner connects the first floor with the choir loft.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered white, in contrast to the dark, wood of the interior gambrel-like space of the roof. The overall surface of the ceiling is composed of narrow, east-west-running board; five exposed rafters feature ornately carved bracings at the wall and ceiling joints.

4. Lighting fixtures: Two rows of glass-shaded light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling; these do not appear to be original.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Sons of Zebedee Church faces east from a Main Street site; to the rear/west is the second Saltsburg train station, and to the north and south are additional residential and commercial structures.

2. Outbuildings: The building erected behind the church has a raised stone foundation with brick structure; three bays wide by five bays long; topped by a slate roof with single, north-gable-end chimney; and pointed-arch windows and at least one door that echo the design of the church; date, builder, and purpose unknown.

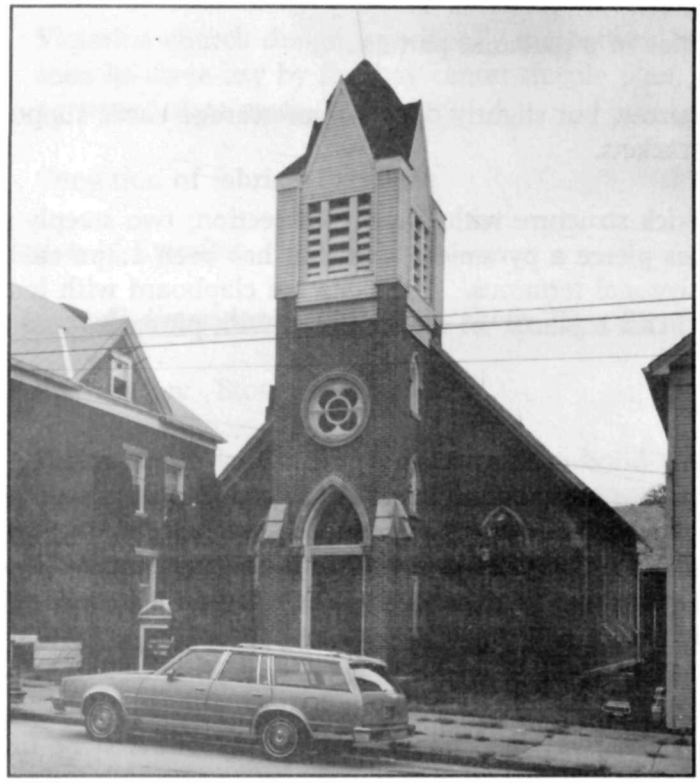




Figure 4.24. East and north/front facades (top) and interior view from balcony.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HABS No. PA-5436

Location: East side of Cathedral Street at Washington Street, just east of the Saltsburg Borough line, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Roman Catholic church, Greensburg diocese.

Present Use: Storage.

Significance: Erected in 1847, the mission church of St. Matthew's is one of the oldest meeting houses in Saltsburg, and one of two such facilities built under the auspices of Fr. Wimmer, the founder of St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., who became the first arch-abbot in America.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1847 (according to church history).

2. Original and subsequent owners: Roman Catholic church.

3. Builder, contractor: Saltsburg stone mason John Martin.

4. Original plans and construction: No plans or drawings were located; however, the rectangular, gable-front, one-story mass appears largely unaltered.

5. Alterations and additions: The bell tower has been removed (date unknown). The doorway on the south facade appears to have been reconstructed, and a modern door installed.

B. Historical Context: St. Matthew's is one of the oldest churches in Saltsburg and the land on which it sits was donated by one of the town's well-known citizens, Mathias Rombach. He owned a great deal of land just northeast of the town boundary, which he sold to the Right Reverend Michael O'Connor, Bishop of Pittsburgh, for the token price of $1. The building was constructed by stone mason John Martin of Saltsburg, who donated his services to the project for an earlier kindness the church bestowed on his family: when Martin's father had fallen ill with cholera, some Catholic Sisters of Charity nursed him back to health.

The bricks used in the building were made from clay taken from the nearby Chestnut Knoll (located between the church and the present high school) and baked in a kiln Martin erected on site; the foundation stones came from materials left over from the construction of the canal tunnel at Tunnelton (Delfavero, "John Martin").

Martin (born 1820) emigrated in 1834 with his father from Ireland, and settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His career included work on the Sandy and Beaver Canals, an apprenticeship in the stone-cutting trade with Pagan and Company of Pittsburgh, and bridge construction. He arrived in Saltsburg in the early 1840s and served for six years as a foreman mason on the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad. He is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church.

In Saltsburg Martin was responsible for several notable buildings, including the Soldier's Monument in Edgewood Cemetery, the Western Pennsylvania Railroad Station, and the Academy, as well as this church. He was treasurer of the Saltsburg Bridge Company, vice president of the cemetery organization, and a borough council member. Martin's stone-cutting yard was on Point Street east of the canal (Arms and White, 383, 391).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Very plain, one-story, gable-front vernacular brick structure, three bays wide and four bays long, with modest Gothic detailing in pointed arch frames within rectangular windows.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 35' x 40'.

2. Foundation: Dressed stone.

3. Walls: Brick laid in five-course American bond.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing brick.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The original door and doorway, centered on the south/front facade has been altered, and may have featured some sort of transom (old undated view), and had paneled wood doors.

b. Windows: The four bays of the east and west sides feature rectangular triple-hung wood sash with narrow sills; the south/front facade features two flanking bays of pointed-arch windows set within a larger rectangular frame. Diamond-shaped lights of stained-glass is extant in these latter two openings--in a purple, blue, and ochre color scheme.

6. Roof:

a. Shape: Gable-front with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Shallow eaves, plain cornice.

c. Tower: The bell tower that was located at the south end of the roof has been removed.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The interior is a single, large, unadorned open space, currently used for storage.

2. Wall and ceiling finishes: The ceiling is covered with molded tin with a foliated square pattern.

D. Site: Located on a flat lot atop a hill overlooking Saltsburg, a cemetery stretches east from the building; otherwise the site is undeveloped.

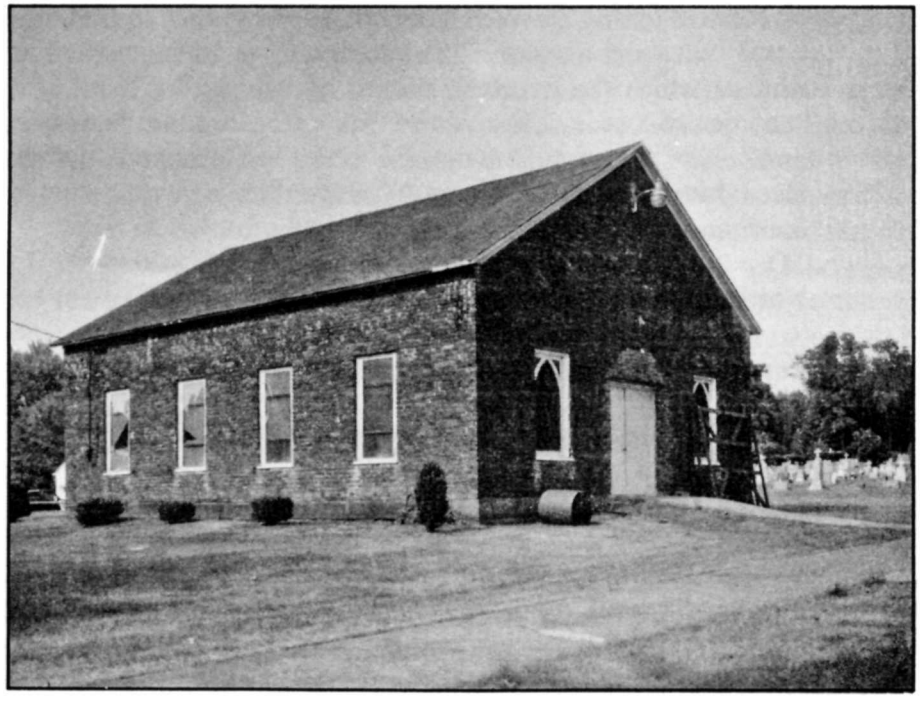


Figure 4.25. South/front and west facades.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION

HABS No. PA-5437

Location: Point Street and the railroad tracks, Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Borough of Saltsburg.

Present Use: Town offices, police station, warehouse.

Significance: This building, constructed between 1856 and 1864, served as the first railway depot in Saltsburg. Erected by local stone mason John Martin and S.S. Jamison for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad Company, it served until the 1880s when the line was acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the tracks relocated.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1856-64. The 1856 Peelor map of Saltsburg indicates a "R.R. Depot" of similar proportion at this site, however the sequence of ownership and identification of parcels is sometimes unclear.

2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 58. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1856 Deed June 21, 1856, Volume 27, Page 404.
John and Margaret Guthrie
TO
Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad Company

1860 Purchase by Western Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

1882 Purchase by Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

3. Builder: John Martin, stone mason; Samuel S. Jamison, contractor.

4. Alterations and additions: In 1950, a one-story brick gable-front block with enclosed frame vestibule were appended to the front facade in a telescoping arrangement. This obscured a three-bay, gable-front facade with central doorway.

B. Historical Context: This first railroad depot was built by Saltsburg stone mason John Martin (born 1820), who was hired to construct the Northwestern Pennsylvania

Railroad Company's stations between Blairsville and Avonmore. Martin emigrated in 1834 with his family from Ireland, and settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His career included work on the Sandy and Beaver canals, an apprenticeship in the stone-cutting trade with Pagan and Company of Pittsburgh, and bridge construction. He arrived in Saltsburg in the early 1840s and served for six years as a foreman mason on the Northwestern Pennsylvania line. In Saltsburg, Martin was responsible for several notable buildings, including the Soldier's Monument in Edgewood Cemetery, St. Matthew's Catholic Church and the Academy, as well as this depot. He was treasurer of the Saltsburg Bridge Company, vice president of the cemetery organization, and a borough council member. Martin's stone-cutting yard was on Point Street just east of the canal (Arms and White, 383, 391).

Martin was contracted to do the work by Samuel Jamison (1797-1877), who initially moved to Saltsburg to work on construction of the Pennsylvania Canal; he remained there for the rest of his life. From 1829 until 1847 Jamison served as supervisor of the western extension of the canal--approximately half the Western Division route. Also, he was the contractor for numerous building projects in and around Saltsburg, including the bridge over the Kiskiminetas River. When the railroad usurped the canal, Jamison was involved in contracting out its structures, such as the train station. Jamison achieved considerable political success, no doubt due to his powerful position, for he was the only Saltsburger elected to the state senate, a post he held from 1854-56.

Jamison's private fortune fluctuated with that of the railroad. In 1860 the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad sold the line to the Western Pennsylvania Railroad, which subsequently went bankrupt. Jamison's finances were tied up in the company, and in 1859 he was forced to sell his farmhouse to pay off debts resulting from this venture. In 1882 the Western Pennsylvania Railroad was acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the tracks relocated from below High Street to the old canal right of way--and a new depot was built in 1884 on Washington Street (Stewart, 504).

The old Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad station has served as a town hall (at least 1886-1927) for cultural and athletic events, and as a bowling alley (1950-78) since retirement as a depot; a 1978 fire caused some damage to the structure, and additions to the front facade have further altered its appearance. The building currently houses the police department and the borough council.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building embodies the basic railroad-station form: simple rectangular plan, one-story, low-pitch gable roof with exaggerated eaves supported by large wood brackets, logically situated lengthwise adjacent to the train tracks.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 88'-6" x 28'-6" prior to modern additions.

2. Foundation: Stone and perhaps some brick.

3. Walls: Brick laid in four- and five-course American bond; the addition is running bond and frame.

4. Structural system: Load-bearing masonry, frame.

5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys with chimney pots.

6. Openings:

 a. Doorways and doors: The historic north facade has been eradicated by a modern addition that features a single, central door; the original contained a central double door with five-light transom. The east facade --that facing the tracks--features a boarded-up service door topped by a stone lintel. The west facade features a single door with three-light transom, and a Classically molded lintel. The one-bay south facade contains a single, broad service door with a brick, segmental-arched surround.

 b. Windows and shutters: The fenestration pattern is irregular, and the use of the various openings is unclear. The north facade historically featured a window on each side of a central doorway. This has been replaced by a fixed, multi-light glass-block window. The east elevation contains a trio of six-over-six-light, double-hung wood sash at the north end of the building; at the south end is a single, arched opening covered by paneled wood shutters. The west elevation is very irregular, with an arrangement of the same six-over-six-light sash and two arched opening with brick surrounds.

7. Roof:

 a. Shape, covering: Low-pitch gable with asphalt shingles.

 b. Eaves: Wide, 5' eaves supported by oversized wood brackets.

C. Description of Interior: The interior of the historic station is currently a single room, used for storage. The modern front addition is also a single room occupied by the police department.

D. Site: This former railroad station stands relatively isolated, facing north on a long, flat site, at the point where the grade ascends steeply up to High Street. The building is bounded on the east by the route of the former railroad tracks, and on the west and north across Point Street by fully developed town blocks.



Figure 4.26. Northeast/front facade.

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